

Volume 47, Issue 1

January/February 2003

Feline Conservation Federation



Lots of spots. Serval Dante and ocelot Bonzai live with George and Tracey Ellsworth



Feline Conservation Federation

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Feline Conservation Federation, Inc. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 59-2048618) noncommercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management and ownership to our members. The material printed in this newsletter is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. FCF, Inc.'s Statement of Intent is contained in our bylaws, a copy of which can be requested from the Secretary. Reproduction of the material in this

newsletter may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF. Since the newsletter consists primarily of articles, studies, photographs and artwork contributed by our members, we encourage all members to submit material whenever possible. Articles concerning exotic felines are preferred and gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Deadline for the next issue is the first of even numbered months. Please submit all material to the Editor. Persons interested in joining FCF should contact the Term Director in Charge of Member Services.

Founder: Catherine Cisin**Editor: Mindy Stinner**

PO Box 882
Mebane, NC 27302
336-421-0065, fax 336-421-0809
e-mail: mstinner@mindspring.com

OFFICERS:**President: George Stowers**

PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
e-mail: gstowers@twcny.rr.com

Vice President: Bob Turner

4467 E. Dayhuff Rd.
Mooresville, IN 46158
317-831-0817
e-mail: robert.l.turner@gm.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Harold Epperson
3310 Remington Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-889-3922
hpepperson@aol.com

TERM DIRECTORS:**Advertising and Publicity:**

Robert Bean
5504 Central Avenue Pike
Knoxville, TN 37912
865-938-0702
wildcon2b@aol.com

Education/Conservation:

Tracy Wilson
PO Box 1382
Searcy, AR 72145
501-368-0399
e-mail: wildcat@ipa.net

Legal Director: Lynn Culver

141 Polk 664
Mena, AR 71953
479-394-5235
e-mail: culvers@voltage.net

Member Services: Leann Montgomery

PO Box 216
Pleasureville, KY 40057-0216
502-878-2567
e-mail: LM4WILDCATS@cs.com

LIFE DIRECTORS:**J.B. Anderson**

1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

Carin Sousa

2960 Bay St.
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
850-932-6383
e-mail: carin6699@aol.com

BRANCHES:**ACEF: Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines-Cascade Branch**

Jeanne Hall
PO Box 103
Green Bank, WA 98253
360-269-1488
e-mail: acef@acef.org
web site: www.acef.org

MEFES: Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society:

Harold Epperson
3310 Remington Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-889-3922

Pacific Northwest Exotics:

Steve Belknap
PO Box 205
Gresham, OR 97030
503-658-7376
e-mail: pnwe@effectnet.com

REGIONAL CONTACTS:**Central: J.B. Anderson**

1825 E. Nashville Church Rd.
Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-4088

Northeast: George Stowers

PO Box 80
Lycoming, NY 13093-0080
315-342-4997
e-mail: gstowers@twcny.rr.com

Northwest: see Branches**Southeast: Jean Hatfield**

1991 SW 136th Ave.
Davie, FL 33325
954-472-7276
e-mail: jeanhatfield@email.msn.com

Southwest: Loreon Vigne

20889 Geyserville Ave.
Geyserville, CA 95411
707-857-4747
e-mail: isis@saber.net

**The FCF web site is available
at www.felineconservation.org**

**Members are invited to participate in
e-mail list discussions on-line at
The_FCF@yahoogroups.com.
To sign up, contact Leann Montgomery,
Member Services Director**

In this issue...

A Focus on Servals: A newsletter spotted with these delightful wild cats.....	4
President's Letter to the Membership.....	5
Important Upcoming Events, Courses and Symposiums.....	7
FCF Convention 2003 in Cincinnati.....	9
Hyperesthesia Syndrome in Servals.....	10
<i>How TJ Lost His Purr: One Serval's Story</i>	
Trophy Hunting: An FCF Exclusive First-Hand Report.....	14
Two Perspectives on a Road Trip to the Husbandry Course in Mena.....	15
Sharing Territories: An Interspecies Adventure.....	18
Health Alert! Hartz Products Pulled From Shelves.....	19
Save Haven for Big Cats-FCF Member Serentiy Springs Makes Good News.....	20
Saving Small Cats in the Wild: FCF Commits to <i>In-Situ</i> Assistance.....	21
Spots in the House: The Truth About Being Owned by a Serval.....	23
Minutes: 3 Meetings of the FCF BOD, MEFES	26
Husbandry of Neonatal Felids: A Series of Reports	31
How Times Have Changes.....	32



Classified


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Editor's note: This issue of the newsletter focuses on servals. Future issues will also have a specific focus on one species or group of wild cats.

The Serval

Leptailurus serval

The serval is a medium sized African species averaging 20-30 pounds and standing 15-25 inches at the shoulder. It is a lanky species with noticeably long legs and neck and large ears in proportion to the rest of the body. It has a medium length tail about 8-12 inches long. The coloration is normally yellowish, with lots of black spots on the sides and stripes on the neck and shoulders. Other colors that have been found are melanistic (black), white-footed (varying from just the toes being white to the entire legs being white), and white. There are 14 currently recognized sub-species, but

DNA testing may find, as with other feline species, that many of these may just be geographical populations and not separate sub-species. It is notable that individuals from more arid areas usually have larger, more pronounced spots than those from wetter regions.

Servals are usually found in the tall grass savannahs. They are absent from the central African rain forests and the Sahara desert. There is a small population in Northwestern Africa, and this population is considered very rare. Their main prey is small rodents, but birds, reptiles, fish, and insects are also taken. An interesting fact is that frogs seem to be a favorite prey. Geertsema (1985 in Ngorongoro, Tanzania) found the remains of frogs in 77% of 56 scats analyzed. She also observed a young male eat at least 28 frogs in a three-hour period. It has been extremely rare to find evidence of servals taking mammals larger than rodents.

The serval relies heavily on its keen sense of hearing to locate its prey. Once it has located something, the stalk ends in a high leaping pounce. These pounces can be as high as 3 feet and be as long as 3-12 feet. The serval will also make a high vertical leap when going after birds and insects, catching them with a clapping motion by the front paws or a downward strike, knocking the prey from the air. Most of the hunting activity takes place in the early morning or in the late evening.

Servals have no defined breeding season and may come into estrus at any time of the year. These heat cycles normally last for four days. Seventy-three days after mating, a litter of 1-4 kittens are born, with an average of 3. The kittens will be weaned at about 8 weeks of age and stay with their mother to learn life and hunting skills until they are 6-8 months old. They reach sexual maturity in 18-24 months, although some individuals may mature earlier and some later. They can live to be up to 20 years old.



The wild population status is good, though fragmentation is becoming a problem. However, servals seem to be adapting well to agricultural areas and the outlook is much better than for less adaptable species. The Barbary serval, from Algeria, is considered endangered by the USF&W Endangered Species Act. CITES lists all subspecies as protected under Appendix II for the purposes of international trade.

In captivity, servals are doing very well, being one of the most commonly kept feline species. ISIS lists over 300 kept in zoos throughout the world. Many more are kept in private hands both in Europe and North America. They breed well in captivity, although this was not always the case. The first documented breeding of the serval in North America took place at the St. Louis Zoological Park in 1956. At that time, breeding was considered quite an accomplishment and it wasn't until several years later that breeding became common place. The AZA has started a Population Management Plan (PMP) for the captive management of servals and has established a studbook in an attempt to keep genetic viability within the species.

Servals require minimal special care. Being an African species, they do appreciate a warm nest box in cold weather, but they can take quite cold weather. They eat 1-3 pounds of meat per day.

Conservation concerns in the wild center on wetlands preservation, since servals seem to prefer areas near water. There is still a small trade in pelts and meat, but it appears that this is mainly for domestic ceremonial or medicinal purposes or for the tourist trade. There is very little international trade in serval pelts. Several countries also allow the sport hunting of servals for trophies, but this is regulated and doesn't seem to be detrimental to the population as a whole.

From the President of FCF

On behalf of the FCF Board of Directors of the Feline Conservation Federation the following is provided to respond to various rumors and statements that have been made regarding actions the FCF Board has taken or is considering regarding FCF Life Directors: John Perry, Carin Sousa, and Shirley Wagner.

On November 26, 2002 a complaint was filed with the FCF Board of Directors against John Perry, Carin Sousa and Shirley Wagner by five FCF members under section 8.4 of our By-Laws. On December 4, 2002 a Special Board meeting was called in executive session to determine if the allegations were of sufficient merit to warrant initiating the process specified in By-Law 8.4. By December 10, 2002 a majority of the BOD had returned votes supporting initiation of the process called for in By-law 8.4.

8.4 After all other due process has been exhausted, upon written request from five (5) FCF members, that for By-law violations, extreme cases of neglect in accepted animal management practices, or the recommendation of a Board of Arbitration, a member may be expelled or suspended. After considering the reason for the request, the Board may advise the member of the action being considered against them, providing them at that time with a copy of the complaint. The member shall have thirty (30) days to file a rebuttal. The Board shall then consider the matter and by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of its members, may notify the member of their expulsion or suspension. In lieu of expulsion or suspension, the Board may recommend corrective action to be taken within a specified time by the offending member. Upon completion of said corrective action, the member would be reinstated to good standing.

On December 11, 2002 John, Carin and Shirley were notified of the Board's decision and offered the option to resign before the proceeding commenced.

Ref: Roberts Rules, Disciplinary Procedures, RIGHTS OF THE SOCIETY AND THE ACCUSED, p. 631, lines 24-36: "If a member is guilty of a serious offense and knows that the other members are in possession of the facts, he may wish to submit his resignation from membership. When the good of the society appears to demand the separation of an offending member, it is usually best for all concerned to offer the member the opportunity to resign quietly before charges are preferred.

I also informed John and Shirley that it was my opinion that if they choose to resign from the FCF Board, the Board would probably not seek to revoke their FCF memberships. I attempted to convey this same message to Carin Sousa but she declined to accept or return several phone calls I made to her.

John and Carin declined to resign, Shirley responded by tendering her resignation from the Board and as Life Director. Subsequently John, Carin and Shirley were placed on disciplinary suspension of their membership rights and privileges (as per Robert's Rules) and requested to provide a response to the allegations within 30 days (January 12, 2003).

It was subsequently learned that on December 9, 2002 John Perry, acting as trustee of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund (KHMSF) had attempted to cash in a Certificate of Deposit (CD) with a value of approximately \$9400, prior to its maturation date, and without prior FCF board knowledge or approval. The KHMSF Articles of Incorporation and By-laws specifically require that prior to implementing any mergers or dissolutions of the corporation, expressed, written consent must first be obtained from the board of directors of the LIOC (now FCF).

KHMSF Articles of Incorporation section 11.2 - Merger, Recapitalization, Dissolution, Consolidation and Sale of Assets. If and when authorized by the affirmative vote of Sixty percent (60%) of the voting power of the directors and upon the affirmative written consent of the Board of Directors of the LIOC-Endangered Species Conservation Federation (now FCF), the corporation may capitalize, merge, dissolve or consolidate into or with any foreign or domestic qualified nonprofit corporation, or sell, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its property and assets, upon such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the members of the Board of Directors shall deem advisable.

The By-Laws of the FCF also state:

16.6 Should the scholarship fund be terminated, any funds remaining will be used to fund a scholarship fund at an accredited school of veterinary medicine selected by the Executive Board of LIOC ESCF.

16.7 Any changes in the administration or structuring of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund must be approved by the Board of Directors of LIOC ESCF prior to implementation.

While some members of the BOD were aware that the Trustees of the FHMSF had expressed interest in dissolving the Scholarship Fund, the FCF Board had neither formally considered nor approved dissolution of the fund.

On December 14, 2002 Lynn Culver and Tonya Jones requested a special meeting and moved that John Perry, be removed as trustee of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund due to dereliction of duty, breach of fiduciary duty, and violations of the terms of the trust and that Harold Epperson be appointed as the replacement. This action was taken under FCF By-Law 16.3:

16.3 The Executive Board will, annually, review the financial transactions of the KHMSF and determine whether an audit is warranted. Should an audit be conducted and the Trustees found in breach of fiduciary duty or violation of the terms of the trust, they may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the LIOC ESCF Executive Board. Such action would simultaneously terminate their position as Life Director of LIOC ESCF.

John Perry was notified of the motion before the Board, and advised that the FCF Board would be interested in hearing any pertinent information that he would like to bring to their attention regarding his action to devolve the fund. When asked the purpose of this action he stated his intent was to close the fund and transfer the money to The University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine at Gainesville to establish a scholarship fund in Ken Hatfield's name, in accordance with a resolution passed by the trustees of the fund, who were at that time John Perry, Carin Sousa, Shirley Wagner, and JB Anderson.

December 31, 2002 the Board voted in favor of removing John Perry as trustee of the KHMSF. Some of the considerations discussed when deliberating this matter included:

1. John Perry violated the by-laws of the KHMSF and the FCF when he attempted to devolve the trust by cashing in the Certificate of Deposit without FCF Board approval.
2. An inquiry by the Board revealed that contrary to the resolution passed by the trustees of the Ken Hatfield Scholarship Memorial Trust Fund to require a bond on the treasurer, John Perry was never bonded with fidelity insurance.
3. Other recent actions by John Perry that appear to be inconsistent with the best interest of the FCF and lead some members of the FCF Board to have no confidence in the future performance of John Perry as trustee and treasurer of the KHMSF.

John Perry has been notified of the Board's decision to revoke his position as trustee of the KHMSF and Life Director of the FCF.

John, Shirley and Carin are still facing charges under FCF By-law 8.4. The BOD will begin deliberations of the facts and information and statements supplied by these three members in the next few weeks. As per Robert's Rules these deliberations will take place in executive session. After carefully weighing all evidence and statements the BOD will vote as to whether any of these members are guilty of the charges or not, and if guilty, whether to grant the membership request for expulsion or determine whether suspension, restitution, or recommending corrective action to be taken within a specified time by the offending member is more appropriate.

The BOD will announce its decision to the full membership when the proceedings have been completed. Until a decision is reached, John Perry, Carin Sousa, and Shirley Wagner will remain under disciplinary suspension.

With Deep Regret,
George N. Stowers
President, FCF

*BOD minutes regarding these actions may be found on
page 28-29 of this newsletter.*

An FCF Benefit: Basic Exotic Cat Care Booklet

Feline Conservation Federation is pleased to announce that we are providing all our members with a Basic Exotic Cat Care Booklet at no cost, with this issue of your newsletter. This booklet will become a part of our new member welcome packets as well. The booklet is adapted from George Stower's Mainly Felids Husbandry Manual, with his permission. It is intended as a basic overview of exotic cat care for a first time prospective cat owner, by briefly going over many topics related to owning an wild feline for a pet. It may be helpful for your own reference, or if you meet someone who is interested in getting their first exotic cat, please share the booklet with them. If you are an exotic cat breeder, or have a lot of contact with new owners, we encourage you to order additional copies to hand out. Additional copies can be ordered for \$2.00 each. This price includes postage.

Mail your check or money order for additional copies to:

FCF, Member Services
Re: Cat Care booklet
PO Box 216
Pleasureville, KY 40057-0216

UPCOMING EVENTS

Phoenix Exotics Wildlife Association Annual Meeting

February 22-23, 2003, 9AM-5PM

Pahrump Nugget Hotel and Casino, Pahrump, NV
(Room Reservations 1-775-751-6500)

This is an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the rights of private ownership of exotic animals through responsible behavior. This year's program plans include a show with exotic animals and the release of a new book on responsible ownership covering small exotic cats. Vernon Weir, a board member of ASA (American Sanctuary Association), will be speak on the following topic: "ASA's perspective on the problem with the overpopulation of big cats: Where they are coming from. Where they are going. And what can be done about controlling the numbers."

There is no registration fee or other cost to attend. Please register no later Feb. 25, as space is limited. To register email:
Membership@phoenixexotics.org Or call: 360-767-0746



Radar, Office Supervisor and Product Testing Division King, awaits the attentions of his loyal subjects.

Photo by Tracy Wilson

USDA Big Cat Symposiums

March 26, 2003 Fort Worth at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (Room Reservations 817-335-7000)

April 30, 2003 Las Vegas at Sam's Town (Room Reservations) 800-897-8696

The purpose of these symposiums is for USDA licensees, (particularly Class C licensees) or other interested parties to have round table discussion with USDA personnel to both understand current regulations and for licensees to give input for better regulations. They will also have a variety of speakers on these topics.

Some of the topics and speakers:

Nutrition, Ann Ward, Fort Worth Zoo

Veterinary Care & Tranquilization, Peregrine Wolff, Scott Amsel, Zoological Veterinary Services

Transportation, Ted Friend, TX A&M, Feld Entertainment, Inc.

New Training Methods, Gary Noble & Michelle Tempelton Skurski, Disney's Animal Kingdom

Explaining APHIS Regulations

Nutrition/Zootrition, Ellen Diernefeld, Wildlife Conservation Society

Fixed Exhibit Enclosure Design, Craig Racicot, San Diego Zoo

Registration deadline is March 1, 2003 and seating is limited. You can call 301-734-7833 or email ACE@aphis.usda.gov

AZA Felid Taxon Advisory Group (FTAG)

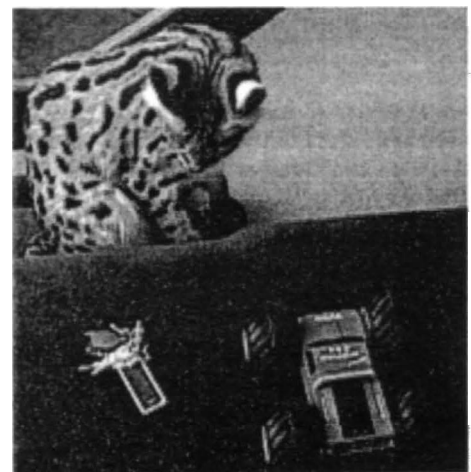
April 4-6, 2003 in Dallas, TX.

This is the FTAG mid-year meeting, hosted by the Dallas Zoo. This meeting is open to anyone interested in felids. A number of SSP meetings as well as an Education workshop will be held on April 2nd and 3rd, prior to the FTAG meeting. A pre-registration fee at the rate of \$40.00 will be charged until March 10th and at a rate of \$75.00 after March 10th. Registration fees will include continental breakfast and snacks April 4-6, lunch April 4, and dinner at the Dallas Zoo on April 5.

Participants will be staying at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Room rates are \$119.00 plus tax for single or double (\$10 more for triple or quad). Contact the Adam's Mark, phone: 1-800-444-2326 or 214-922-8000, www.adamsmark.com. When reserving rooms mention "The Dallas Zoo". The Adam's Mark Hotel is centrally located near many restaurants, shopping and entertainment and is directly on the line of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail with service throughout Dallas, including DFW airport and the Dallas Zoo. The hotel will be the site for all Felid TAG meetings April 4-6 and SSP meetings on April 3. Any meetings on April 2 will be held at the Dallas Zoo.

For further information or to receive a registration packet, contact Janelle Barron or Rhonda Hampton at the Dallas Zoo, phone: 214-670-6834 or 214-670-6835, email: jaykeb_2000@yahoo.com or rhondahtx@yahoo.com or contact Ken Kaemmerer, Curator of Mammals at 214-671-0778, email: kkaem@airmail.com

CHOICES



John Thomas Smith

Special Thanks to Mazuri from FCF

Mazuri.

The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

Mazuri recently expressed an interest in FCF's Wild Feline Husbandry Course and wanted to offer their support to FCF in our educational efforts for private owners of wild felines. Mazuri has offered to provide 250 student text books for our future classes. This is a very generous offer, as 250 text books will cost approximately \$1000 to be printed! Since the husbandry course is one of the few sources we have to raise extra funds for FCF, this

generous donation will save the organization \$1000 in expenses for conducting future courses, while providing an education to wild feline owners.

Mazuri produces diets and supplements for a variety of exotic or unusual pet animals, including wild felines. You can view Mazuri's entire product line and shop online at their website: <http://mazuri.com>. FCF is very proud to receive recognition from this outside corporation for providing an excellent educational source for wild feline owners. FCF extends a great big THANK YOU to Mazuri for their support and generous donation.

For information about upcoming husbandry classes, you can visit the following website for up to date course locations, dates, and registration information: <http://www.wildfeline.org>. Upcoming locations for this year include Indiana, Oregon, North Carolina, and more! --submitted by Tracy Wilson, FCF Director of Conservation and Education

UPCOMING FCF BASIC WILD FELINE HUSBANDRY COURSES

April 26, 2003, Hosted by the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, Indiana

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ivy Tech State College
47802

7999 South US Hwy 41, Terre Haute, Indiana

Registration Fee: \$65 for FCF members, \$90 for nonmembers.

Registration Deadline is April 5, 2003

To register, and for hotel information, please call Joe or Jean at 812-835-1130.

For more detailed info on this class, visit the following website: <http://www.wildfeline.org>

June 14, 2003, Hosted by Exoticatz Wildlife Retreat near Redmond, Oregon

8:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Historical Redmond Hotel Travelodge www.redmondtravelodge.com

521 SW 6th

Redmond, Oregon 97756

1-800-578-7878 for Room Reservations

Registration Fee: \$65 for FCF members, \$90 for nonmembers.

Registration Deadline: May 1, 2003

Call 541-548-7877 to register or for additional information.



Princess Piper in the Snow
photo by Tracy Wilson

Mail Registration check or money order to:

Jenny Quincey

PO Box 1086

Redmond, Oregon 97756

On Sunday June 15th, students are invited to a guided educational tour of the Exoticatz Wildlife Retreat. This facility is home to many felines of different species along with alternative livestock and features a variety of natural and modern habitat compounds. Tour Donation: \$15.00, reservation required. For more detailed info on this class, visit the following website: <http://www.wildfeline.org>

**MEFES is selling their
2003 Exotic Cats Calendar now!**

Featuring 13 different 8 1/2 X 11

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Make your plans to join us in Cincinnati August 7-10, 2003!

2003 Convention Update

Things are quickly falling into place for the 31st Annual FCF Convention. The location of the 2003 Convention was originally set for Buffalo, New York. Although we were looking forward to the chance to visit Buffalo, there have been recent changes made to exotic husbandry legislation in that state, and we are concerned that these new laws may prevent us from bringing cats to the convention.

At the same time, we received an invitation from the Cincinnati Zoo for a behind the scenes tour of their facilities, and we couldn't refuse such a great offer. So, the decision was made to move the 2003 Convention location from Buffalo to Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Cincinnati Zoo is one of the oldest zoo's in America and is a designated National Historic landmark. The zoo is internationally recognized for their conservation programs and is home to eighteen different species of exotic cats, including snow leopard, clouded leopard, ocelot, margay, cheetah, white lion, Indochinese tiger, Siberian lynx, bobcat, serval, pallas cat, pampas cat, caracal, Geoffroy's cat, Fishing cat, sand cat, and Temminck's golden cat.

In addition, several FCF members are planning to bring their feline friends as well. Look for more convention information, including hotel details, on the FCF web site and in upcoming newsletters.

Cincinnati Zoo's ocelot birth a first

Wednesday August 23, 2000

By Christine Oliva
The Cincinnati Enquirer

The world's first ocelot kitten produced by embryo transfer made its debut Tuesday at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.

The kitten, whose name Sihil in Mayan means "to be born again," is the product of a procedure that could be the key to repopulating dying genetic variations of the medium-sized cats.

"Embryo transfer is still a fledgling science and any success is reason for celebration," said Kenneth Kaemmerer of the Dallas Zoo. He coordinates the Ocelot Species Survival Plan. "But this is going to allow us to start up a population of Brazilian ocelots here without the stress of bringing adult animals (here). We can bring in many embryos and even store some. And we can select genetic lines that are unrepresented in the captive population."

Sihil, along with four of the six adult ocelots in the zoo, are generic ocelots, which means their ancestry is unknown. Genetically, they do not resemble any of the subspecies found in the wild.

But scientists from the zoo's Center for Research of Endangered Wildlife have been working in Brazil to produce and freeze Brazilian ocelot embryos. Currently there are 25 embryos waiting to be transferred to the United States, said Dr. Bill Swanson, head of CREW's animal conservation division. Eventually they will be implanted into a generic ocelot, but the result will be a purebred Brazilian kitten.

Ocelots were first listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1972, when they were hunted to near-extinction for their spotted coats. Although there are now about 120 ocelots living in captivity in North American zoos, most of them are generic. The ability to transfer embryos is expected to increase the genetically defined population, Dr. Swanson said. The procedure requires two small incisions and takes only a few minutes to complete, minimizing the recovery time for the surrogate mother.

Unlike in-vitro fertilization in humans, where the natural reproductive system is shut down and manipulated with hormones, the scientists took advantage of the cat's natural cycle. After ovulation, three embryos were thawed and implanted through a tiny tube. Then the pregnancy watch began.

The cat, named Alicia, gave birth to a single kitten 83 days later and "seems to be taking very good care of it," Dr. Swanson said.

Sihil was born seven days ago, but the zoo waited until Tuesday to make the announcement. So far, Sihil has had no contact with humans, so its gender is still unknown. It will be several weeks before the doctors make any attempt to disturb Alicia and her kitten.

Until then, the closest look they get will be through the lens of an infrared camera.

source: http://enquirer.com/editions/2000/08/23/loc_cincinnati_zoos.html



Hyperesthesia

Over-sensitivity to Touch and Light Pressure

By Lynn Culver

Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome is a relatively rare condition that is also known as rolling-skin syndrome, neurodermatitis, neuritis, psychomotor epilepsy, and pruritic dermatosis. The oriental breeds of domestic cats like the Siamese seem to be more predisposed than others to developing this condition.

The typical cat is otherwise healthy. It may be an excessively nervous or excitable animal, or may have a recent history of environmental changes that lead to emotional distress. The onset of feline hyperesthesia syndrome starts with the rippling of the skin at the dorsum of the back, biting or licking at the tail, flank or pelvis. The animal's eyes can become glassy with widely dilated pupils and it may seem as if it is having hallucinations as it exhibits frantic meowing, swishing of the tail, running crazy around the house and attacking objects including the owner without provocation. The cats may even have generalized seizures. Signs may last seconds to several minutes with no apparent pattern as to when they occur.

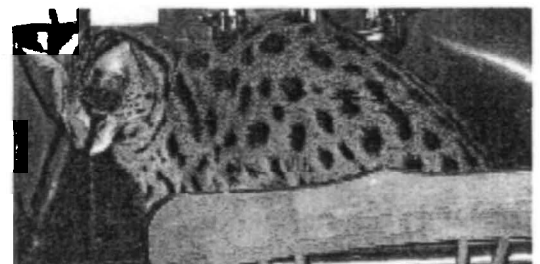
There is no universally agreed upon answer as to what is, and what causes Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome. I spent some time interviewing Dr. Nicholas Dodman, author of the book titled "The Cat Who Cried for Help". Dr. Dodman teaches at Tufts University and specializes in animal behavior. He has extensive experience treating this syndrome that he relates in his book. He lectures about this mysterious disorder as well and he spent some time conversing with me and explained that several theories abound. Dr. Dodman is of the opinion that this is mainly an obsessive-compulsive disorder and he has had good results by administering anti-obsessional and anti-anxiety drugs such as Prozac and valium. Some of his colleges however, believe this is basically a neurological seizure disorder that if untreated will progress to frank epileptic seizures. These feline patients have responded to the anti-seizure medication phenobarbital. Dr. Dodman told me of a pathological study that reported on the condition of the muscle tissue taken near the spinal column of 6 different patients and each exhibited evidence of viral myocytitis, such as the very slow developing prion type virus, or even a type of encephalitis. And still others in the veterinary community feel it is a genetic disorder linked to heredity. Finally, some feel there are many different expressions of feline hyperesthesia syndrome.

What we do know is that it appears to flare up in periodic bouts, with different apparent triggering mechanisms and in some cases, no obvious reason for the bout can be determined. Many times this syndrome begins after an injury to the tail or dorsal spine region or surgery to that region as if it were possibly tied to the sympathetic nervous system. Dilated eyes also suggests the sympathetic nervous system is involved. However, this is not always the case. There are cases where no previous injury or surgery is known to exist.

Dr. Dodman related that some theorize it is the anesthesia that is the triggering agent, noting when it has surfaced after an operation requiring sedation. Ketamine and Telazol, drugs used to sedate are known to cause hallucinations and some believe that the animals afflicted are reliving "flashbacks" from receiving anesthesia previously. Dr. Dodman relayed to me patient histories where a bout would be preceded by the animal jerking their head back, eyes dilate and the animal begins looking at the corner of the room as if seeing sometime and reacting to this hallucination. I expressed to Dr. Dodson that hearing this description, it seemed more likely to me that the poor animal was recognizing the unmistakable body queues of an oncoming hyperesthesia bout and the animal was aware it was soon going to escalate to severe body discomfort. In their mind it had to be caused by somebody or something so they were looking for the cause to try to prevent it from happening. Imagine the fear and anger you would feel if you know you were about to experience pain. If this is true, it can explain why an animal would suddenly act crazy and aggressive, attacking you without cause all the while vocalizing. Perhaps they are screaming – Out demon, OUT!!!

With the heredity theory, the individual is believed to be pre-disposed to acquiring this condition but the exact timing can be triggered by external stimuli. It is pre-wired to happen though, regardless of injury, viral infection or drug reaction.

Confusing - definitely. More study is needed before the veterinary community will agree upon definitive answers. What is known however is that Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome does occur in captive servals. Internet lists have posted several accounts of this condition in servals with please for help.



A Serval in the Sink
photo by Mindy Stinner



Hyperesthesia Syndrome – How TJ Lost his Purr. . .

One day early in 1996, TJ came running to me absolutely wild-eyed. He looked terrified, and he obviously wanted me to comfort him. I held out my arms and embraced him all the while speaking softly. TJ literally SCREAMED (in pain?) as I touched him. He bolted away – only to come running back to me. I tried to hold him; to tell him that all was okay. He screamed again and pulled away. I noticed his skin was rippling as if some underground ocean had invaded his body. He lay down and snapped his jaws at his back feet! I was alarmed and frightened for him.

I loaded him into his carrier and headed for my vet's office. TJ was sedated and blood was drawn to be checked. Every bone in his body was x-rayed. We had talked about a spinal tap - but in the hurried moments of checking all that could be checked - it was forgotten. All TJ's test results were normal. Dr. Goldsmith then handed me a copy of a chapter on Hyperesthesia Syndrome

out of one of his textbooks. As I read I got a sinking feeling – the author was describing my sweet serval's recent behavior. But why? Why did this happen to an almost 4 year old happy healthy loving serval?

About three months earlier TJ had lost his tail. Originally he only lost the tip - catching it in the metal louvers of the bi-fold closet doors in the cat room. From where the tip of his tail was found - he must have been on his shelf and swished his tail and caught the tip. The louvers had sharp edges and must have sheared off the tip of TJ's tail.

When this incident happened, I was not at home. Unable to get a plane immediately, I returned home two days later. TJ had been taken to the vet by his kitty sitter. The vet had shaved about six inches of his tail, made a small skin flap and repaired the injury.

Upon my return, I opened the door to the cat room... There was blood everywhere! Kira, the caracal, always the "snarky" cat would not let the vet-tech kitty sitter clean the room. I saw TJ and his now very strange looking tail.... Both cats seemed fine. I hugged my babies and locked them up in their carriers so that I could clean up their room. Before I could complete my clean up, up to my ankles in Clorox, I heard TJ scream. I dried off as best I could and went to check on my boy. I opened his carrier and saw that he had eaten the entire shaved part of his tail!

Off we went to the vet's office. A small amount of the remainder of his tail was shaved and cut for another skin flap and again the injury was repaired.

In a few days things had settled down - but TJ ate the shaved part of his tail AGAIN! My sweet serval with the once long and lovely tail now had only a stump to call his own. The end of his tail finally healed and was covered with fur and TJ seemed okay at last.

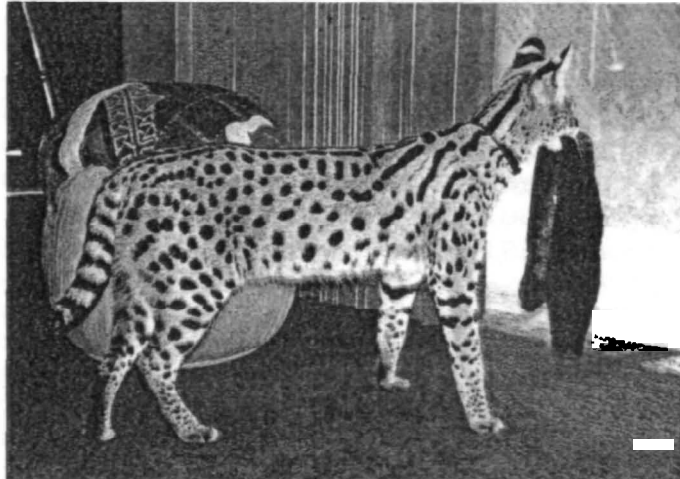
TJ was okay until that day three months later when both our worlds changed forever. Looking back, I wish that TJ had not gone to the vet for the first tail repair. I do not believe that I would ever advise shaving the tail of an exotic cat - I learned later that TJ's "removal" of the shaved part is rather common - something about the nerve endings in the tail Hind sight is so great

When all of TJ's tests came back normal, my vet had me put TJ on 10mg of Prozac daily. The problem with anti-anxiety drugs is that they take time to work. I saw no change in TJ for ten days. I spent every moment I could with him. It was a real problem to get him to eat his food - let alone get a pill down him. I was given his 5mg of Serex (a sort of timed release Valium). My vet had spoken to James Cook, the veterinary neurologist that wrote the Hyperesthesia article he had giving me. Dr Cook wanted TJ off the Prozac and onto Buspar - another anti-anxiety type drug. I obliged. But ten days later I was beside myself - it wasn't working! At that point I needed medical help for myself AND TJ. My medical doctor - a friend for many years - suggested I put TJ on a small amount of both Prozac and Buspar; stating that they "kicked each other". So that is what I did. After what seemed like an eternity, TJ seemed to improve. I played with the dosages of both drugs and continued the Serex - though I cut it to about three milligrams daily. The Prozac and Buspar seemed to kill TJ's appetite so the Serex was needed for that too.

Almost accidentally, I discovered that TJ—who never did like raw meat – his preference was for “brown food” - Zupreem and then Mazuri - actually LOVED rats! I was thrilled that he relished eating the rats because now I could hide his pills in one end or the other of his daily rat! Most days he never noticed they were there.

It took quite a while to get the correct combination of drugs and their amounts for the best results for TJ, but gradually things improved.

My life and TJ's were forever changed because of this “illness”. TJ never purred again. Not ever. Our relationship with regard to touch changed too. I could still take his sweet face in my hands and kiss his nose but never again were there any extended petting sessions. Thankfully, TJ never injured himself with his snapping jaws - but the moments I would watch him snap at his back legs always brought tears to my eyes. And when he appeared to be afraid, I would die a little inside. But things WERE better than they had been. TJ was now about 80% of what he was “before” about 80%



of the time. He was having more good moments than bad – he still loved his “snake toy” and would play fetch with me - and he and Kira the caracal truly loved each other...

When TJ had a bad time he liked me to hold him. How I discovered that wrapping him in a heavy quilt allowed me to hold and comfort him - I don't have a clue - but I did this whenever he wanted to be held. He would calm down and I would fight back the silent tears wondering if I was doing the right thing feeding my baby drugs and allowing him to suffer like this. And there was the guilt - no matter how illogical - I felt what had happened was my fault - didn't I have a wild animal who should be running free in the jungle living in my house...

When TJ had his good days, I would remind myself that Africa had no “glazed donut trees” or “cappuccino pools” - and a small amount of these were favorites of my sweet boy.

I must admit that I probably would not have allowed TJ these inappropriate items had this not happened - but now I felt if they brought a little extra sunshine into his life for a few moments - I'd forget the rules.

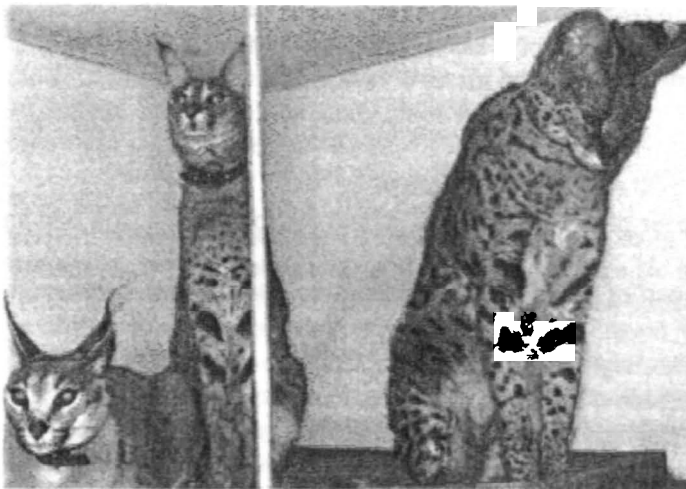
Shortly after TJ began on the drugs - he also forgot how to use the litter box. Bless his heart, he never peed on the carpet but only on the linoleum in the cat room. I got out the mop at least twice a day. I finally discovered that he preferred to use an empty litter box. Perhaps the kitty litter bothered his feet? He did poop in the litter box with the litter - so that theory died quickly. When times were good, I'd only have to empty the box without the litter and would not have to lock up the cats in their carriers in the middle of the day or night to mop up the floor and let it dry.

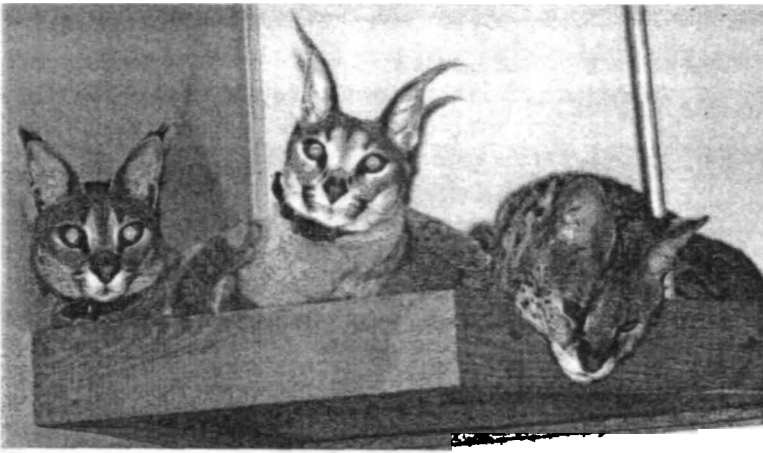
TJ was always such a sweet and gentle serval - it always made me smile when TJ would hiss. Not that he did

hiss. Compared to any other serval I knew, his soft, breathy, almost inaudible sound that he made had me believing he needed “hissing lessons.”

As I continued giving TJ the Prozac, Buspar and Serex, I was more and more concerned about their long term effects - but the other option - to end his life - made me thankful for the extended time they were providing for us. I was frustrated in my attempts to find more information about Hyperesthesia Syndrome. I found no one who had ever heard of this in an exotic cat. All I knew was that there was no cure - if you were lucky perhaps you could gain some control over the symptoms - but no cure...

I believe that TJ's tail injury started this horror-but the vet said he did not think so—it was something that occasionally happened to otherwise healthy animals—and no one knew why. What I was doing for TJ did help—but really, I knew that it was not enough for either of us.





Then TJ would bring me a toy to throw for him and I would melt and think maybe it wasn't really so bad. A little more than eighteen months after all this began, TJ started having more bad days. I begged my vet to see if there was anything new we could try for TJ. I just could not give up. A couple of days later he told me that he had no additional information. I had increased TJ's meds. He was now getting 20mg of Prozac, 10mg of Buspar and between five and seven milligrams of Serex daily. If he was having an especially bad day, I would give him a little extra Serex—but I was not going to dope my boy into a stupor—that would be no life for him. Things did settle down again in about two weeks. TJ was back to his previous 80% - and so we contin-

ued. However, when I dwelled on TJ's bad times, I could barely think straight. I would feel so helpless....

Like TJ's bad times—mine would pass too—at least for a while. TJ would walk around with my flowered caftan covering most of his body - and I would laugh out loud. When things for TJ were good, he could always make me laugh. Like when he would jump over the baby gate at the entrance to the kitchen and lose his hearing! You see, no cats are allowed in my kitchen. They all know it. Mostly, they stay out...mostly.... When one of the little darlings would go in the kitchen, Mom would start screaming, "No kitchen, NO KITCHEN!!!!" Aftica, serval/caracal cross, would jump back over the baby gate (Kira NEVER went in the kitchen!) to get out before the offender was sent to the cat room. But TJ, once in the kitchen, evidently lost his hearing. He would also forget how to jump over the gate. I would always have to actually go to the kitchen, get TJ's attention and move the gate so he could get out. Discipline or enforcing house rules does not work when "the enforcer" is laughing...

The beginning of the end came about two years after I had increased TJ's meds. TJ now did not want to come down off his shelf, or come out of his room, or play with his favorite snake toy. I had to coax him to eat. I hoped that this was just another temporary bad time and that he would improve again as he had so many times before. Again, I asked my vet to do some more checking for any new reported treatment that might help. It was not to be. I knew that this was no life for my darling TJ. Any further increase in the drugs that he was currently taking just seemed to make him more unwilling to do anything except lie curled up on his shelf. I tried different dosages of the drugs again to no avail.

I made the decision to end TJ's suffering in August of 2000. My vet came to the house and I held my darling TJ as his life and pain ended. There was no other decision I could have made at that time. The world's sweetest serval was gone from my life - but never from my heart. This was the toughest thing I have ever had to do. I suppose the "what-if's" will haunt me forever...

Shortly after TJ's death, I heard from two other owners whose servals appeared to be suffering from Hyperesthesia Syndrome. Both cats' symptoms appeared after an injury to the tail or lower spine. There is a real puzzle here with regard to Hyperesthesia Syndrome in servals. I pray that there will be a solution—the earlier the better—so that other owners and their servals will be able to continue happy and full lives with a minimal amount of this kind of suffering. There have to be better options than those available for TJ.

TJ, before the hyperesthesia syndrome, back when his tail was beautiful and fluffy. He loved playing with his fuzzy ball toy. Finally at peace again. I will always love you dear.

Nanette McGann





Stuffed trophy tigers seized in F&W raid --Chicago Tribune photo by Candice Cusic

Sold as Trophies

by Erik Collette

On March 25, 1998, the owner of a game farm in Wisconsin sold nine tigers and two lions to a Chicago-area man for \$9,000. The owner of the game farm had no idea that the creatures he sold were about to be slaughtered. But the cats were transported by truck to a warehouse in the Chicago suburb of Alsip, where they were met by two men carrying handguns. It took over 30 shots to kill eight of the tigers. The remaining tiger and the two lions were killed days later at a nearby farm after an undercover agent agreed to pay \$500 for a tiger hide. According to a Chicago Tribune article published on Sunday, November 24, 2002, a five-year investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has uncovered a massive operation where tigers, leopards, lions, and cougars were murdered for their skins, and the carcasses taken to a butcher shop where the meat was processed and sold.

The cats were killed for what has become a multibillion-dollar industry in which a wide assortment of creatures are bought, sold, traded, and sometimes slaughtered. In this instance, trophy collectors and big-game hunters fueled a market for rare skins – mainly tigers. Trophy collectors and hunters would sign up on waiting lists to visit USDA approved “animal parks” such as the Funky Monkey in the suburb of Crete, some gladly paying over \$2,500 to shoot a tiger confined to a small cage or trailer. Then they would have their picture taken with their “kill” and pay thousands more to have the skin mounted for their homes. The carcass was sold to a local butcher shop in nearby Lockport that specializes in exotic meat. According to officials, the trophy collectors signing up for these canned hunts were told that as long as they were paying only for the taxidermy work, and not for the animals themselves, no laws would be broken. They were told that since the tigers were “generics” they were not covered by the Endangered Species Act. After the slaughter, federal paperwork for customers was falsified to show the tiger hides sold were “donated,” and the animals had died of other causes, such as cancer, hip dysplasia, or an overdose of medicine, according to the indictments. Although the Endangered Species Act prohibits killing tigers for commercial purposes and bars their sale across state lines without proper permits, it allows them to cross state lines without permits if they are donated.

Wildlife agents fully documented the slaughter of 19 tigers, one leopard and one barasingha, an Asian swamp deer – all endangered species. Numerous big cats that are not considered endangered were also massacred; among these were African lions, cougars and tiger-lion hybrids. The cats were all shot at close range while confined to cages or trailers. The investigation spanned eight states – Illinois, Michigan, Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Kansas and Missouri – and involved animal park owners, taxidermists and “suburban safari hunters.”

“I am told that we have slowed the trade down,” said Tim Santel, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent heading up the investigation. “Hopefully, it had an impact, but I suspect it is only temporary. The way things work in the wildlife world, if they can make a dollar on it, they will find a way to sell it.”

That’s what happens in a country where the wildlife service is understaffed and underpaid, and the profit in illegal trafficking and slaughter of these magnificent creatures far outweighs any fines or punishment. The problem is that federal guidelines limit the length of sentences, and at times, (as happened in this investigation) a wildlife agent must actually allow the killing of an endangered animal before an arrest can be made.

Of the 16 individuals charged so far, 14 have pleaded guilty. William Kapp of Tinley Park and Richard Czimmer Jr. of Lockport have pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial. The charges included violating the Endangered Species Act, which addresses the killing, and the Lacey Act, which covers the sale and transport of these protected animals. As his defense, Kapp is saying that the tigers involved were not protected under federal law because of a decision made in 1998 by the Fish and Wildlife Service to no longer require permits for the sale of generic tigers across state lines. Santel states, however, that the rule did not change their protection status.

I have personally met Richard Czimmer Jr., the owner of Czimmer’s butcher shop that is near my home. As a boy, I remember entering the shop with my father to buy a goose for our Christmas dinner. Out behind the shop, pens contained buffalo and llama, and I also caught glimpses of other creatures scurrying around back while driving past. Inside, they sold a variety of meats including venison, duck, pheasant, goose, rabbit, buffalo, ostrich, rattlesnake, elk, beaver, and turtle. There were also exotic meats that I always passed by with a somewhat uneasy feeling – zebra, elephant, lion... Turns out most of the meat from the endangered tigers ended up being labeled as lion in Czimmer’s shop, and was readily consumed by local customers. Not that I would ever think of buying lion steaks, but it sickens me to think that people in my own neighborhood were paying to devour an endangered species.

It’s shocking to encounter an illegal exotic animal trade operating right here in the southwest Chicago suburbs. But sadly this is just one small ring in a major international industry. What’s really disturbing is the source of all these animals; captive breeding facilities, animal parks, zoological facilities, and sanctuaries, all licensed by the USDA to buy or sell virtually any animal. This one investigation has not solved the problem. These facilities could still unknowingly sentence their animals to a short life behind bars, abruptly ended by a bullet so some trophy collector can show off his prize. Perhaps a good way to help prevent this lies in the creation of a network or database of reputable facilities and individuals, so that you can be sure the animal you’re selling or donating will be well taken care of. I think an organization like FCF could help implement a program such as this with positive results.

Taking the FCF Husbandry Course in Mena, Arkansas

My name is Kryss Ward and I am a native of Omaha, Nebraska. Back in April of 2002, my dad and I took a road trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. That trip changed my life. While shopping in Keystone, I was handed a flyer for Wildcat Valley Sanctuary of the Black Hills. I was so excited that my hands shook as I dialed the number on the flyer hoping to schedule a tour of the facility. The following day, I met Jim and Judy Morrow who run Wildcat Valley. I was in heaven as we walked past the enclosures and learned about the magnificent cats that live there. My excitement was obvious as I rattled on about my love of cats and how much I would love to be able to work with them someday. Judy and I began to correspond via e-mail and she told me about an Exotic Cat Discussion Group and how I could become a member of it. It was through that group that I became aware of FCF and the Wild Feline Husbandry Course. I could hardly wait until I had the chance to attend it.

It was a Thursday night in December when I got into my Buick and headed south. Although most of the eleven-hour drive was at night, the sun did come up on Friday morning as Highway 71 wound through the Ouachita Mountains. I was taken by the charm of the area as small creeks snaked their way around the landscape and herds of cattle grazed in their pastures. I am a city girl, but love being in the middle of nowhere surrounded by nature and serenity on every side.

Mena was bigger than I had imagined and I was delighted to have both McDonald's and Pizza Hut across the road from my motel. Gavin, the proprietor, was friendly and helpful giving me directions to the local attractions and shopping centers. He had the most adorable accent. He gave me a room in back where there would be fewer sounds from the road and I could rest more easily. I was so tired that even though I was very excited I fell asleep almost immediately. I spent Friday catching up on sleep so I would be alert and ready to learn on Saturday.

Rich Mountain Community College was close enough I could have walked from my room. I drove though because the warm weather I had been so hoping to find down south never did materialize. It was cold! Technical difficulties threatened to delay the start of our day, but somehow, everything came together just in time. I remember being all intimidated about having to learn "the complete taxonomic classification of the family Felidae". I thought I'd be lucky just to pronounce it, but here I sit weeks later and I can still recite it by heart: Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Carnivora, Felidae. The instructors were friendly, patient, helpful, and knowledgeable. We were in good hands.

One thing I do wish they had done was include the pictures of the different species of cats in our textbooks. I was frantic to take note from the slides they presented detailing them all. I guess I should count myself lucky though because there had been some printing problems and I was one of the few who didn't have any pages missing in their book.

I think the most confusing part of the course was trying to keep all the regulatory agencies straight. Which group regulates importing and who is in charge of facility inspections...that sort of thing. They called it alphabet soup and they were right. Between USDA, USDI, USF&W, REAC, and APHIS it was a struggle to keep them all straight. But that is government for you I guess. Can't make anything too easy.

At the end of the day, we reviewed our little hearts out and took the exam. I was so happy to learn I had only missed 3 out of 50 questions. I received my pretty golden certificate stating I had passed a course in Basic Exotic Feline Husbandry. I am still so proud of myself and my husband has promised me a beautiful frame to put it in. I opted out of the group dinner that was planned so I could run back to the hotel and get on the phone. I had to tell the world how much fun I had and that I had passed the test.

Sunday morning, I walked out into the crisp cool air and headed for the Natural Order Animal Husbandry Conservation Center (N.O.A.H.). Lynn gave excellent directions so I never got lost once. The first cat I saw was a Caracal. It was sitting all prim and proper and was not amused with my interest in it. Gorgeous animal nonetheless. The Bobcats were next to draw my attention. Chasing each other around, circling their walkways, they were a joy to behold. Lynn told us that two of them had been filmed for a commercial that has yet to air. The Geoffroys were next on our tour. I could not believe how tiny they were. My domestic house cats are much bigger. One little lady peeked out of her den box and then emerged completely showing off her dainty frame and beautiful coat.

As we walked on we came to the servals. I got a great picture of one looking as if it were about to prance. They were a bit growly, but not aggressive. Lynn secured everyone in their enclosures and allowed the tour to enter the exercise yard. Her husband Bart has created some wonderful enrichment items in there. After the group excited the yard, Bart remained within and tried to get some caracals to put on a show for us. I think they were shy because there were so many of us watching.

As he tried to coax them into showing us how high they can leap, Lynn pointed out features of the enclosures. She showed us hot wires and re-curves, as well as pointing out the various types of fencing fabric used. She and Bart have it set up where cats do not share common "walls" so they can't reach through and harass each other. Apparently, this was a problem with certain ladies not getting along.

The tour wound its way through the facility to where the Canadian Lynx habitat is. There were three of them there and they also interacted a bit for us.



Bart Culver playing Go Fish with caracals

They have a really neat “tree house” in there with a swinging walkway. I reached out and felt the softest fur I had ever felt as one brushed up against the fencing. This feeling came over me as having been given a great privilege...that this exquisite creature had allowed me to touch them.

The cougars were just around the corner so we visited them next. I love the way cougars vocalize. They always seem to have so much to say. They showed the most affection for Lynn other than maybe the Bobcats who had to love her up while we visited with them. She related a story about how a virus had gone through them one by one and I was amazed by it. The 70-mile drives to the vet with one after another of them. I was already wondering how she could possibly afford to feed them and the thought of those vet bills made me shudder.

The last complex Lynn took us through was an indoor facility filled with Geoffroys. She has speakers set up to pump in jungle music for them and Bart has created a play-center he calls “Bonehenge” from the pelvis bones of the cattle that the cougars eat. Of course, I had killed the battery on my digital camera by now so I got no pictures of this.

It is only too obvious how much hard work and dedication and passion Lynn and Bart put into these cats. From planting bamboo to building custom transport and squeeze cages, they spare no expense (or time and effort) for the well being, comfort and enrichment of the felines they share their land with. As I drove away that day, my head was spinning with thoughts and ideas of what I might some day be able to achieve with the information I had gathered that weekend. My time in Mena was exciting and educational and fun. I will treasure the memories and the new friendships made there always.

A Second Perspective

My name is Susan Watts and I also took the Husbandry Course in Mena. The trip to the class and back home allowed me to meet many more of my favorite cats—servals.

I have had the pleasure of meeting lots of servals in the past year. I have noticed lots of differences between the individuals.

The first serval I met was Zaynah. Zaynah is 3 years old, and has been at the Conservators’ Center (CCI) for 2 years. She was found by animal control running loose at a nursing home three weeks after she escaped from her family’s home nearby. Animal control decided not to let her go back to her family, who didn’t have the proper paper work and insurance to keep Zaynah. When she first came to CCI, her mom came out to see her every chance that she got. But that didn’t last for very long. When her mom quit coming to see her she got very depressed. After lots of visits from Gina (a CCI volunteer who is like her new mom) she has come out of her depression. Zaynah has also accepted one other new person. I have become her pal, her person to play games with. Zaynah’s story illustrates why people should make sure they have the proper paper work to keep any animal. Her adjustment has been slow and tough.

Zaynah still has a hard time with new people. We still have to keep our eyes on her when we are visiting with her. There is still that chance that she will try to roll in our laps and bite at our faces (this is a habit that she was taught by her mom, who had lots of little scars on her face). Her diet is rats or mice. Twice a week she gets chicken legs, necks, and wings. We leave the feathers on for her, as she really likes to play with the feathers.

This summer we gave all the cats at CCI feeder goldfish. Zaynah is quick at catching and eating the fish. I think this is her favorite game. Zaynah’s build is also very nice, and she is strong. Her coat is thick and soft.

Lena is the next serval I met. Lena is also 3 years old and has been at CCI for almost a year. She came from a family in Michigan. They decided that she didn’t make such a good house pet for them because of her potty habits and the fact that she sprayed everything—even them, when they came out of the shower! Lena was treated very well, and was happy to be the queen of her house. Her parents have been down to see her several times and are planning another trip this spring. Lena is a very loving serval. She wants to please anybody that she meets. She is well adjusted to her new house. Lena has lots of fountain grass in her enclosure. I think it’s her favorite thing to play in. Lena has the same diet as Zaynah does.

The biggest difference in the two has been caused to their past diets. Lena was mostly given a diet of fish at her last home. A diet that is primarily fish can cause problems with some types of vitamin absorption. I think this has affected her in lots of ways. One is that she has a very short attention span. And she kind of gives you that “valley girl” or “mall rat” look. I think if she could talk she would use words like “ya,” “ok,” “whatever,” and “duh!” Lena’s coat was very thin and bristly as well. Now that she is eating rats and chicken, her coat is getting thicker and she is gaining weight. And seems to be more interested in playing games that require her to jump or pay attention for longer periods.

Sasha is a 2 year old serval. She has been at CCI for 6 months now. I wanted

Above-Zaynah Serval playing with a toy mouse
Left-The author with Lena Serval



Sandi Roberts



Mindy Stinner



WIN \$50.00!!!

A Fun Contest for FCF Members

We are holding a contest to name our 20-acre facility that is dedicated to wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and education.

Currently we have 32 different animals including exotic cats, kangaroo, raccoon, fox, binturong, caviar, prairie dog and other wonderful native and exotic wildlife.

Our property is a lovely mixture of native Florida vegetation consisting of live oak, cabbage palm and saw palmettos. Our animal habitats are situated in this natural environment.

We will be obtaining a non-profit status and will display our name on merchandise for sale so we are looking for a name that is both memorable and professional sounding.

Send your suggestion to us by mail at:
George and Tracey Ellsworth 15304 Fiddlesticks Blvd. Fort Myers, Florida 33912

We will pick a winner from the participants of the FCF membership, whether we choose that name or not.
Thanks everyone and we will be looking forward to opening the mail!!!

(continued from previous page) to tell you about her because I had the chance to see her at home with her family before she came here. Her mom decided to try doing monkey rescue work in her home, and Sasha, being a serval, couldn't resist the temptation of a tasty baby monkey sitting on the couch. When she attacked the baby monkey, she damaged her badly and really upset her owners. I saw Sasha when we went to pick her up. She was happy at home with her mom who hand fed her warmed up food. Sasha was happy to rule her house. Now that she is outside for the first time, she is very unhappy, and has not bonded with any one. We are hopeful that one day she will bond with someone and maybe will be a happier girl. She is from good bloodlines, and CCI plans to breed her in the future. Maybe she will settle for a boy serval friend instead of a good human friend.

I was able to attend the Basic Husbandry class on Dec 7th in Mena. While on the trip I got to meet many more servals, because we visited several places on the way home. This was the first time I ever saw a seriously overweight serval. Actually, I got to see a few overweight servals. One was very fat due to the diet the first owner had fed, and is now staying at Tracy Wilson's place. So now Tracy has had to work very hard to make the serval lose weight without being too mad or having any other health problems. She is doing a wonderful job with it. Then we saw a second very overweight serval. The bad thing in this case was that the owner didn't seem to understand all the health problems it could cause for the serval. So nothing was being done to help him lose weight. Maybe they will be lucky enough not to have all the health problems that come with poor diet and overweight wild cats.

The last type of serval we got to see was a white-footed serval. Bobby Bean has several servals with bright white feet, chests and faces. I think they are very pretty.

The most important advice that I can give anyone who wants to get a serval for a pet is this:

Please spend some time with an adult serval first. Talk to lots of people about them. Make sure you know that you are in for the long haul, in every aspect of that animal's life. Their diet is important, and they need room to move and play. You must spend time with them every day. They will bond to you and it's hard for them to lose their family if they don't work out for you. So make sure that you really want a serval first!



photo by Susan Watts



photo by Tracy Wilson

Above Right-Sasha Serval expressing her opinion about the great outdoors
Left-A white-footed serval Right-a dieting serval

SHARING TERRITORIES

By Elizabeth Hatton

My home is more or less owned by a serval and a caracal. They share territory with each other and are kind enough to allow the humans in the family share it as well.

Coda, our male serval, came to us almost two years ago. (Much thanks to Lynn and Bart Culver.) He arrived healthy, full of energy and willing to accept humans as part of his environment. He quickly became friendly with the male domestic cat I was fostering for a friend. In his first year of life Coda learned to walk on a lead, come when we called his name, sit on command and play fetch. He chose my oldest child, Heather as his favorite human, tolerating being picked up by her, even when he indicated to me he was not in the mood. When my three human children would gather to play a game or watch TV, there he was, part of the gang. He would hop into the tub when they bathed, steal their water toys and hide them in my bed. He would take turns grooming them as they slept, at the end of the night he would find his place at my feet to sleep.

We had him neutered and de-clawed all around. He was intended to be a house pet and I wanted to make sure we took as many precautions possible to ensure his success. (Back up plan for outdoor caging was made in the event of any unforeseen problems socializing the cat.) I would call Lynn on a regular basis to keep her posted on his progress. Not too long before his first birthday she informed me there would be a litter of caracals available.

Shadow came to us just before Coda turned a year old. When I peeked into his travel crate for the first time, I was greeted with a hiss. We decided that unlike Coda, (who rode in my lap the whole way home when I picked him up as a kitten) we would wait until we were home to take Shadow out of the crate. Once home, I opened the crate, he hissed. I talked softly to him as I reached to the back of the crate to scoop him out. I pulled him in towards me with a gentle but firm hold. As he settled into my arms, he began to purr. I pet him in my lap as I fed him his bottle and the bonding began.

Coda handled the new arrival much the same way human children handle a new sibling. He sulked..... a lot. He refused to be pet, come when called or even play fetch. "Who was this fuzzy critter taking up "Mommy's" time?" Even worse, "Why was she allowing it? After two days of full-blown displays of resentment by Coda, I decided to be drastic in my persistence to make everyone play nice. I kept the kitten in a cage in my bedroom, and had Coda and the male domestic shut into the same room, with of course me. From time to time I would have one of the kids pop into the room as well.

I remembered reading the primary reason most non-domestics are solitary, is to ensure they have adequate territory to sustain their dietary needs. Also some domestics will sometimes resent newcomers because they feel not only their food source threatened, but fear they will loose the affection of their humans. Addressing these concerns (and hoping to God those really were the reasons for the non acceptance of the new baby) I had decided we would all stay in the room together. Everyone would get fed together, and I would give affection in abundance to all in the presence of each other. I also took into account the "scent factor." I would rotate toys and blankies from inside the cage to out and back again, allowing all to contribute their scent to the collective whole. The domestic, having already accepted Coda, came around quickly and began to groom the kitten when I held him on my lap. I would hold Shadow in my arms and talk sweetly to Coda inviting him to come say hello.... although it would be a week before he honored my request.

Within 48 hours of Shadows arrival, Coda was himself again, except of course when Shadow was being held. Between the second and sixth day, all the humans in the family went out of their way to pay special attention to Coda. Extra games, extra petting, extra bathtub time was allotted.

On the seventh day, God rested, and decided to give me a break too. I was sitting on my bed feeding Shadow a bottle; Coda sat not more than two feet away from me. With his back towards me, he put in extra effort to actively ignore me. It was then, I heard him make a sound I had never heard him make before or since. (Or hopefully ever again, since the very thought tears at my heart.) It sounded like a child whimpering. I felt a lump in my throat as I requested once again for Coda to come see the baby. Shadow was in my lap, drinking with his eyes closed. My arm sheltered most of his body. Coda made his way over. By the time the kitten opened his eyes, Coda was heavily involved in the process of grooming him. Unfortunately all Shadow had

Mercedes with Coda Serval, Heather feeding Shadow Caracal



Group Asks Major Retailers to Stop Sale of Deadly Pesticide Widely Used on Pets

From Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

Wednesday, December 18, 2002

WASHINGTON, DC — The national environmental group Beyond Pesticides today asked major retailers to immediately pull off their store shelves tick and flea repellents identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as deadly. Last month, EPA struck a deal with Hartz Mountain Corporation to stop shipping and re-label two repellent products for which EPA has received thousands of reports detailing illness and death in kittens and cats. While shipping of the product stopped at the end of November, the products will remain on store shelves without any warning to consumers until they are replaced with newly labeled products sometime next year. "It is wrong to leave these dangerous pet products on the market after EPA has identified the hazard," said Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides.

Because of the pet deaths associated with its flea repellent products, Hartz agreed in November to halt all shipments of Hartz Advanced Care Brand Flea and Tick Drops Plus for Cats and Kittens (EPA Reg. No. 2596-148), and Hartz Advanced Care Brand Once-a-Month Flea and Tick Drops for Cats and Kittens (EPA Reg. No. 2596-151). Although the situation was deemed sufficiently dire to support new packaging, additional safety information, and a shipping stoppage, EPA, nevertheless, has allowed products on store shelves to be sold without warning. Beyond Pesticide fears additional pet fatalities and potential danger to owners applying these products. Affected cats have been exposed to dangerous doses of these pesticides primarily through licking their fur. Program Coordinator of Beyond Pesticides, Jessica Lunsford, said, "If these pets can become ill through normal exposure to these products then children petting the animals will also be exposed and could also be affected."

The primary active ingredient in these products is phenothrin, a synthetic pyrethroid found to induce neurotoxicity when ingested as a result of licking the pesticide application. Symptoms of acute toxicity include sneezing, nasal stuffiness, headache, nausea, lack of coordination, tremors, convulsions, facial swelling, and hyper-excitability. These symptoms have been seen in cats, as obsessive fur licking leading to baldness, severe dermatitis and even death.

This is not the first time Hartz Mountain has produced products tied to pet deaths. In 1988, Hartz was forced to remove its flea and tick product, Blockade, after reports of 200 pet deaths and charges filed by EPA for the company's failure to report adverse effects incidents. Letters urging removal of the products from store shelves were sent to 35 executives at 25 major retail chains, including PETsMart, Petco, K Mart, Wal-Mart, Kroger affiliated food stores and many others.

For more information, contact:

Jessica Lunsford, Program Coordinator
Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition

Against the Misuse of Pesticides

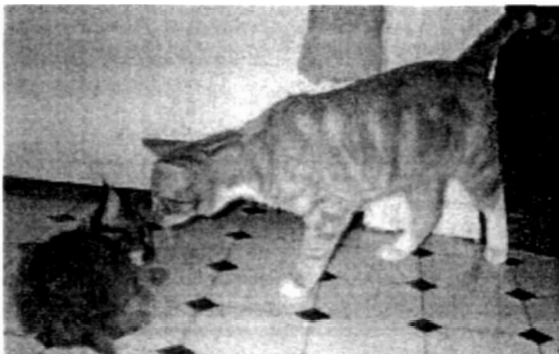
202-543-5450 jlunsford@beyondpesticides.org

Web site: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org>

source: www.enn.com

**Antifreeze Toxicity Information
can be found at:**

http://www.vspn.org/Library/Rounds/VSPN_VSPN011210.htm



(continued from previous page) known of Coda was a very big cat who hissed at him through bars. Now they were nose to nose and Shadow hissed at Coda. I can only imagine Coda was offended by this, he promptly bopped Shadow on the head and removed himself from the immediate area.

The fostered domestic has since left. My two boys quickly became friends, and remain so as of present. Where one goes, the other is seconds behind. I have watched them hide on each other, waiting for the other to come looking. They play tag together taking turns being "predator" and "prey." (I have given up hope of ever taking the Lennox back out of the boxes to place on my shelves.) At the end of the night they will take turns grooming the humans and each other, but ultimately seek to cuddle up with one another for the purpose of sleeping. The loss of my nightly foot warmer was the trade off for peace in a home with multiple cats, three human children, and now, two adults, sharing territories.

Safe Haven for Big Cats

Editor's note: Karen and Nick Sculac are FCF members.

By Deborah Frazier, Rocky Mountain News, December 2, 2002

ELLICOTT - Every tiger has a tale, but a trio of the large, striped felines that once belonged to prize fighter Mike Tyson aren't talking. The tales all have the same plot: People buy wild animals as cuddly cubs, but can't take care of them as toothsome adults.

Big Cats of Serenity Springs, a federally licensed and state inspected refuge about 25 miles east of Colorado Springs, is home to 65 lions, tigers and other felines that outgrew their previous owners' ability to keep them. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase that if you build it, they will come," said Karen Sculac, who owns the refuge with her husband, Nick.

Tyson's cats, two white tigers - Kenya and Storm - and a rare, golden tabby tiger known as Boris, arrived at the southeastern Colorado sanctuary last week from a Texas shelter near Tyson's home. Tyson, known for biting off part of fighter Evander Holyfield's ear and serving a prison sentence for rape, bought the animals as cubs and then tried unsuccessfully for seven years to get a license to own big cats. Rather than euthanize the tigers or turn them over to law enforcement, Tyson gave them to the animal shelter and asked that they be sent to the Sculacs. "Mike Tyson picked us because he wanted them to have a good home," said Nick Sculac. The Sculacs never talked with Tyson, but the Texas refuge said he checked out sanctuaries across the country.

Tyson, who told reporters he sparred with the tigers, paid \$900 a week to board the cats while he owned them and hooked up video cameras around their cage so he could watch their antics on a computer when he traveled, Nick Sculac said. Tyson wasn't available for comment. And, the tiger support checks stopped coming when the Texas shelter took in Kenya, Storm and Boris.

"At least they still have their ears," Karen Sculac quipped.

Spooked and hostile at first, Kenya and Storm, both females weighing about 350 pounds, were chuffing happily by Thanksgiving. Chuffing is the sound a feline makes - a throaty moan of pleasure that tapers off into a loud purr. Boris, a 550-pound male, still prefers to lunge at the fence or sulk in the shade.

"He barks at men, but not at women, so we think if he was abused, it was a man," said Karen Sculac, explaining that a bark is a short, loud roar that serves as a warning. Inside the tall chain fence, Kenya and Storm charged each other, embraced in midair, and hit the ground rolling with a sound akin to a large tree falling in the forest. Then, they groomed each other and sunned.

They're lucky. The Sculacs, who don't breed or sell the felines, get hundreds of requests each year to take in another big cat. Usually they say no. But they made an exception for 12 lions and tigers owned by Ken Alvarez, who leased out exotic animals for carnivals, fairs, parties and ads, including those promoting the Denver business of Jake Jabs. Jabs never owned any of the big cats used in American Furniture Warehouse ads where the then-cubs romped on sofas, rolled on rugs and lolled on couches. The felines outgrew those roles years ago.

Last November, Alvarez abandoned 28 big cats in small cages at an old mine site near Rapid City, S.D., with no food or water. He was arrested in Greeley in May and goes to trial in Rapid City this month on 56 federal charges for animal abuse and neglect.

"The cages were 200 square feet in size and there were three tigers in every cage," Skip Rudge, executive director of the Humane Society of the Black Hills, said. Rudge said another facility raised about \$200,000 to take the cats, but couldn't transport all the animals. Since South Dakota winters are too cold for tropical animals, Rudge offered the remaining 12 to the Sculacs. "It cost us \$12,000 to take care of them for almost a year," said Rudge, referring to medical care for the ailing and wounded, as well as food. "We're a small shelter in a state of 700,000 people. We can't afford it." The Sculacs' felines consume 800 pounds of meat a day, paid for by donations, tours and an occasional lecture to animal lovers about not buying big cats as pets.

For them, 65 is probably the limit.

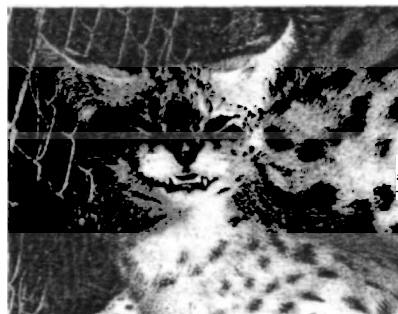
"Someone asked if we'd take a rhinoceros," Nick Sculac said. "I told them that we don't do rhinos."



Nick Sculac, who owns a shelter for lions, tigers and other big cats, plays with Atlas and Zuri, two of 12 felines that he and his wife, Karen, took in last year after they were abandoned at an old mine site in Rapid City, S.D. Ken Alvarez, who owned the cats, goes on trial this month on 56 federal charges for animal abuse and neglect.



**Dogs come when
they're called;
cats take a
message and get
back to you later.
- Mary Bly**



**Sneezy Sasha
and Leaping
Lena Servals
cavort at CCI**



SAVING SMALL CATS IN THE WILD

The Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos

While the struggle goes on to protect endangered big cats, the steady eradication of smaller wildcat species continues almost unnoticed. That's why, in 1997, Earthways Foundation sponsored the development of the world's first margay reserve. The reserve - 25,000 acres of near-virgin rainforest in northwestern Ecuador - belongs to Playa de Oro, a village which has no electricity, no phones, no mail service, no roads in. As it was when settled 500 years ago, Playa de Oro remains accessible only by a river which only a few local men can navigate.

Despite its remoteness, in 1990 the community, its forest, and its wildlife came under siege by timber companies which had already clearcut much of the rainforest downriver. When Earthways project director Rosa Jordan suggested that the logging companies might be fended off if the community designated its forest a protected area for neo-tropical felids, the people of Playa de Oro decided it was worth a try.

Jaguars and pumas are native to the region, but these big cats have not been sighted in Playa de Oro's territory in a decade or more, so were probably hunted out before the reserve was established. Remaining are four smaller neo-tropical felid species: ocelots, margays, oncillas, and the water-loving jaguarundi. The sanctuary would be called the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos, because the common Latin American name for all spotted wildcats is "tigrillo", or "little tiger". The rarest of these, the margay, would be its flagship species.

As part of the reserve project, Earthways Foundation raised funds which allowed the community to recycle an abandoned military barracks into a jungle lodge. Earthways Foundation, Wild About Cats, Jesept's Pride, and many private donors contributed to the development of the lodge and salaries for the reserve's staff (who are so dedicated that they work for a mere \$5 per day!) Income generated from visitors will eventually make the reserve self-supporting. Someday it may even turn a small profit which would be used for community improvement projects.

The lodge opened in 2000 and is now gets a steady trickle of visitors. Most come because they know their dollars support the reserve and protect habitat essential to the survival of small neo-tropical felids. They leave having had what one visitor called "a quintessential rainforest experience."

In December, National Geographic sent in a film crew to do a segment for its TV channel, and in February, the reserve's staff is preparing for an even more exciting visit: that of several people, including Tracy Wilson of FCF, whose mission is to set up wildlife surveillance cameras on loan from Jim Sanderson of Conservation International. (Sanderson is one of the few field biologist who DOES focus on the smaller wildcats of the world; his excellent work is profiled in the December issue of SMITHSONIAN Magazine.) The cameras will be placed along game trails where they can capture, on film, the various species which exist within the reserve.

Until now, data have been taken from "track traps", where it is nearly impossible to distinguish between margays and oncillas. There are occasional sightings as well, but these are rare. The smaller cats are nocturnal, and are believed to spend most of their time in the forest canopy, coming to ground only when absolutely necessary. Tracks and sightings may be inconclusive, but photographs will provide clear evidence of how many wildcat species are being protected at the Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos.

For the reserve, this will be a major step forward, one which should generate more visits from rainforest researchers and eco-tourists with a sincere interest in seeing their travel dollars spent in a way which directly protects the wildlife and wild places which we all long to know first-hand.

--For the cats, Rosa Jordan

FCF Goes to Ecuador to help Cats in the Wild!

I am proud to announce a very exciting conservation project that FCF is taking part in. I spent some time last year researching different conservation projects, looking for just the right one that FCF members would be interested in and could really make a difference with. At the suggestion of several FCF members, one of the people I contacted last summer was a lady named Rosa Jordan that had helped establish a rainforest reserve in Ecuador named "Touch the Jungle", or as the locals call it, "Playa de Oro Reserva de Tigrillos" to protect indigenous species of wild cats. I talked to FCF members about the possibility of FCF getting involved with this reserve at our membership meeting in August to see what members thought about it, and got very good feedback from members present. So I continued to pursue this particular reserve with the help of our conservation committee to see how we, as an organization, could do something to benefit it and the cats the reserve protects. Robert Bean, FCF's conservation committee chairman, was instrumental in opening and keeping ongoing communications between myself and Rosa Jordan, as he had already had been communicating with Rosa via email for quite a while about her reserve.

One of our speakers from this past year's convention, Jim Sanderson of Conservation International, did a presentation on camera trapping for data collection of rare or hard to find species in remote locations. His particular interest and specialty is small wild cats. Conservation International, the organization he works for, is a very well funded and well staffed operation with international political clout and the ability to present their findings in a manner that gains the respect of nations and cooperation when asked. Jim is part of their TEAM, that is The Tropical Ecology, Assessment, and Monitoring Initiative which is positioned to become a catalyst for conservation goals worldwide. The TEAM network provides the conservation and scientific communities with standardized sets of data on biodiversity collected at key sites across tropical forest ecosystems, so that they can track diversity over time. There can be no saving nature, if governments and societies do not know what there is to save, or what is already gone. Monitoring and data collection come first.

Jim started expressing interest to me after we met in August about putting together a special project that FCF and CI could work together in a coordinated effort to assist in situ conservation projects. So I found myself in a position where a biologist who specializes in camera trapping data collection wanted to work together with FCF on some type of conservation project, while finding out around the same time, that one of the greatest needs of this Reserve, Touch the Jungle in Ecuador, was camera trapping! The Reserve needs to establish what creatures currently exist inside the reserve and to be able to initiate programs to help them survive and thrive in the wild. Camera trapping would also attract more researchers and conservationists to the reserve to help gain even more support to the Reserve, once photo data proves there are wild cats species to do research about. It seemed to be fate that brought us all together. Or, as Rosa says, the Jaguar God had brought us together to make sure we do our part to help cats in the wild. It appeared that all three of us had something to offer each of our respected organizations.

Jim, Rosa, and I started putting plans together this fall, figuring out what the reserve needed and what FCF could provide, along with feedback of members of FCF's conservation committee and individual FCF members. Jim offered to donate 4 camera trap set ups to the reserve, (valued at almost \$2000) and he would also travel at his own expense to the reserve and set the camera traps up. For FCF to provide ongoing support, I agreed to promote fundraisers to FCF members to help cover the supplies needed for the camera traps, and do other various promotions for the reserve through FCF. I agreed to also travel at my own expense to the reserve with Jim and take any FCF members who wanted to go, and be trained on how to properly set up the camera traps. I would also train the local reserve staff in feline husbandry issues since they house wild felines for rehab and release at the reserve. Then I would travel to the reserve once or twice a year, providing opportunities to any FCF members to go also, and continue to train more folks in camera trapping and data collection, assist with any projects the reserve needed, while continuing husbandry education with the local reserve staff. We set the date for the initial trip and camera set up for February 1-9, 2003. Jim has agreed to loan the cameras to the reserve for a year, and depending on how much action the cameras receive, the cameras may stay longer, and more cameras may be brought in later if needed.

Our trip date is drawing very near, and we are making our final preparations to travel to Ecuador. (By the time you are reading this, we will probably already be in Ecuador getting the cameras set up.) I had not openly advertised the trip thus far, as this being the first trip and a learning experience, I was not comfortable taking a large group down, not knowing first hand what to expect yet. So I found just a small handful of members who wanted to participate in the adventure to go to Ecuador. Jim travels the world working with various wild cat conservation projects, and spent the entire month of December in Cambodia at a project. We just found out a few weeks before our trip date, that Jim contracted dengue fever and fell very ill. He would not be able to actually go to Ecuador with us now because of his illness. He didn't want to let FCF and the reserve down after all these long preparations, so he mailed the camera traps to Rosa, and we started training over the phone and via email with Jim on how to work the cameras and how to set them up. The FCF members who were initially planning on going on this first trip are all unable to go for various reasons at the last minute also. So Rosa and I have been left on our own to get this project off the ground, with Jim's support from afar. Rosa found 3 other individuals to go on this adventure with us at the last minute to help us get the job done. And we are confident we are going to do it!

Now comes the part for you as a FCF member to get involved. The camera traps need supplies to get them set up and stay running. The reserve is a nonprofit and does not have the funds to keep the cameras stocked in film, batteries, film processing, and other misc. supplies. Batteries have to be replaced monthly in the cameras, and each of the 4 cameras will go through several rolls of film over a month's time. Then the film needs to be processed so we can see what we caught on film. We will print our best camera trap photos in our newsletter for everyone to see what the findings are. The reserve needs FCF members to help pay for the camera trapping supplies over this next year.

You can participate by sending a donation to FCF to help cover the cost of camera supplies for this project. This is your chance to take part in a wild cat conservation project from the ground up and to follow what happens step by step. I will write first hand updates about the project to FCF members for the newsletter, and provide a presentation at our convention this summer for members. Jim is planning to be at our convention as well to speak and translate the data the cameras provide for us between February and August. We will set a date to go back to the reserve and give anyone interested an opportunity to go with us. You could see first hand what FCF member donations have provided for the reserve and what is being done at the reserve to benefit wild cats, as well as provide your own contributions to the reserve's projects. That next trip will probably in the fall. Don't worry, we'll give plenty of notice for an upcoming trip!

If you would like to participate in this project by donating to help pay for camera trapping supplies, please make your check out to FCF noting that it is for the Ecuador project. You can mail it to our treasurer, Harold Epperson, at the following address:

FCF, Attn: H. Epperson
3310 Remington Drive
Indianapolis, IN. 46227- 8126

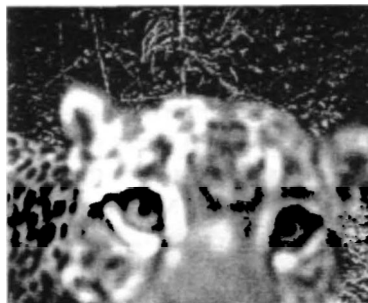
If you would like more information about the Reserve, you can find it on the following websites:

<http://www.earthways.org/touchthejungle/index.html>
<http://www.zoosgowild.com/ecuador.htm>
<http://wildaboutcats.org/ttj0.htm>

Thanks so much for your support!

Tracy Wilson

FCF Director of Education & Conservation



FCF members wishing to help defray the costs of the "photo trap" project should contact Harold Epperson.. Those wishing to support the reserve can send donations to: Touch the Jungle, Earthways Foundation, 20178 Rockport Way, Malibu, CA 90265. Earthways covers all administrative costs related to the project; thus 100% of donor funds are used for maintenance of the reserve. Donations are tax-deductable.

Spots in the House

By John Thomas Smith & Terrie Kaufman



As long as I can remember (at least 20 years) I have wanted to have a Tiger, but had pretty much resigned myself to the fact that it was never going to happen. Then, in 1995, my wife told me it was time to either “get a cat, or shut up”!!!

We started checking in our area of Washington, directly across the Columbia River from Portland OR, and found an LIOC (now FCF) chapter. We joined and attended meetings for about a year to listen, learn and make an educated decision as to what we were getting ourselves into if we did become adopted by a Tiger.

The legality and practicality of owning such a large cat turned out to be so overwhelming and difficult, not to mention the fact that caging requirements and the legal representation (the local permit process for such a large exotic cat has a requirement for a public comment process, just as if we had a business about to build a shopping center) could run close to \$50,000 for a LEGAL cat, and we were not about to have a Tiger without all the legal “I’s” dotted and “T’s” crossed. Needless to say a smaller cat was on the horizon but which cat, what size and where from were the remaining questions.

At some point my wife said because she was home all day she would like a cat which was smaller, an animal she could feel some control over under any circumstances, one who would never live it’s life in a cage. The decision was to look for a cat which would live in the house with our 3 female domestics and truly be a part of our family. We visited a breeder who was also a member of our group and after seeing both the Caracals

and Servals, it was love at first sight and the only thing left was to make the decision of which breed as two large cats was out of the

My wife, an interior designer, wanted a “designer cat,” a beautiful animal which would fit into our home and lifestyle. We asked question of other owners, searched the Internet for breeders and finally wound up finding one who only lived 12 miles from our home. She was well known and had a wonderful reputation. We visited her facility to make certain it was clean, well cared for and that her animals were happy and healthy. She also wanted a chance to talk to us before entrusting us with the responsibility of an exotic cat. This was going to be a big decision for us, one not taken lightly and one which would impact and change our lives and lifestyle for many, many years to come. No more travelling, no more impromptu weekends away from our home.

We first saw the 2 Serval kittens at age 3 weeks. Our decision as to which cat was going to be chosen was done on a very scientific basis. The first kitten who licked John’s hand became our choice! Once our decision was made we were told we could not bring our baby home until she was 4 weeks old. That meant we had one very long week to wait anxiously for our new arrival. We purchased all the items needed, bought items not needed but adorable, and made a place for our soon to be new member of our family.

We brought E’Leisha home on November 27, 1997 at 4 weeks old. (go to <http://www.pacifier.com/~jtsmith> to see more pictures)

Our family of felines was comprised of 3 domestic INDOOR cats and they each had their own reaction to the new kid on the block. Our oldest, Sumi, (who had been an only cat for many, many years, and would have just as soon stayed as the only cat in the house) hissed and swatted every time E’Leisha came near. To this day she is left alone by the, now, far larger Serval who outweighs her by at least 24 lbs. The middle cat, ChuChu, is completely intimidated by her size and has tried to ignore E’Leisha the best she can. The third and the youngest, Bekko, is a sometime play and snuggle buddy of E’Leisha’s.

Do be aware that we know perfectly well that this is ONE Serval’s personality, so do not take our

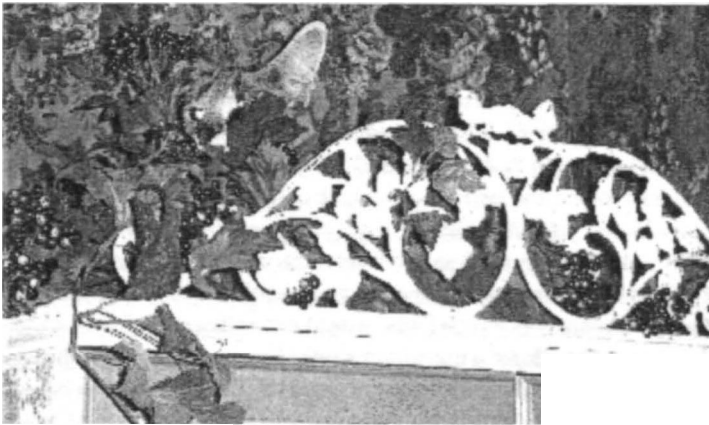


experience as proof positive that a big cat will always fit in with domestic cats. (bringing a baby exotic cat home to adult domestics does give you a better chance of peace and harmony later in life... just no guarantees)

As part of our requirement to obtain our USDA license, we would be required to build an outside enclosure for E'Leisha, just in case there came a day when she could no longer live within the house for whatever reasons. We built a large deck off our living room, which was 10 feet off the ground to insure no fleas or unwanted bugs. The deck, aptly named "the girls room" was on the side of a hill, overlooking a lovely meandering creek and accessed by a regular door for the humans and a pet door for the 4 felines, so all the cats had a wonderful view of nature.

When E'Leisha was 2 years old, almost full grown and very opinionated, we wound up adopting a stray male kitten who had been living on our outside deck. (not the enclosed deck, another one) Bringing in another cat was a big decision, as we did not know how E'Leisha would react to a strange feline in HER home, especially a male one.

We first took K.C. (kitty-cat) to the vet and had "the works" done to make sure he was healthy. The first day home we let him rest and regain his strength before introducing him to his new sisters. Upon meeting KC, E'Leisha let us know that this was an unwanted addition to HER home.



After 24 hours of hissing and fussing and being a spoiled brat there was a change which was almost unbelievable. E'Leisha decided this boy cat, 3 month old KC was HER's, and within hours they had formed a bond and were almost inseparable companions, sleeping and eating together. What a joy to watch our Serval licking, cleaning and loving this small young kitten after all the worry about how this relationship would fare. Again, this is ONE Serval's reaction, so do not expect this type of result in all cases.

At some point E'Leisha, while still teething, decided the strap handle on an overnight bag, which sat in the closet on the floor, was fair game. We had no idea she had learned how to open the closet door, or ingested the handle, until a few days later when she had thrown up and was not eating as usual. Because we were very aware of her potty habits, we noticed she had not had a bowel movement for several days, had not kept anything down and was laying on our bed just looking at us as if we should know she didn't

feel well. She was very warm to our touch and of course we went into "immediate emergency mode". We rushed her to our vet, had exams taken and saw what it was that was blocking her intestines. She was rushed into surgery immediately, while Terrie sat close to the operating room going out of her mind wondering what do if we lost her. Our vet was wonderful and she came through the surgery just great. All items ingestable were now either behind LOCKED doors or on high shelves.

The parameters for exotic cat's blood ratios and results are NOT the same as for domestic cats, nor can these cats be given ALL anesthetics without endangering their lives. Be very sure your vet knows the difference and has the type of medications used for the exotic animals. (you may buy a CD of blood values for several hundred different species of animals by visiting the ISIS website at <http://www.worldzoo.org>)

E'Leisha came out of the surgery fine and we learned that certain parts of our life needed changing. The "designer's" home was going to have to be changed a little and some items were now going to be put away for safe keeping in order to protect E'Leisha from herself. The house was soon "child-proofed".

When E'Leisha was 3 years ago we decided a new home was the order of the day. Since we could no longer travel or spend weekends away with friends, our new home was to have everything possible. Kind of like a perpetual vacation. Terrie designed the house to wrap around an indoor Koi pond and gardens and put in tile floors throughout, except for the 3 bedrooms. Exotic cats, even more so than a domestic, spray when not getting their way, even neutered one's.

Part of being smarter than the domestic cats is having her own opinion about "how things ought to be" in her world of "she's the master, we're the servants". E'Leisha will "call for play" while Terrie is in the office working, or anywhere in the house. Terrie has learned, even if on the telephone with a client, it's time to apologize and hang up because E'Leisha's needs do indeed come first. If we ignore that call, we will pay later in some way and Terrie has a "chard pile" of beautiful flow-blue and irreplaceable antiques, all broken, to prove it's best to give her what she wants, when she wants it. We now call her Princess!

Living in the house 24/7 also means that E'Leisha has free roam, sleeps anywhere she wants and can get into anything she wants. Watching her, making sure she is safe at all times is a full time job for us. Her health and safety are uppermost on our minds and our lives have changed drastically because of her needs.



As E'Leisha was growing she taught us many things...An exotic cat doesn't go AROUND pretty things placed on a table or shelf, they go THROUGH them. Exotic cats will "spray" right in front of you if not happy about the service. Exotic cats do NOT cover their "poop", so our domestics do this job for her. Exotic cats are just that, EXOTIC and wild and not going to do what you want them to.

Exotic cats go through a "chew on everything" stage, just like any small animal or child, so wires hanging from your computer, television, radio or lamps must be shielded with hard plastic wire covers, which you can purchase at an automotive store. Bitter Apple spray from pet supply stores can be used liberally... and even then, we wound up having to throw away a Leather recliner after E'Leisha destroyed it, along with several other items of value.

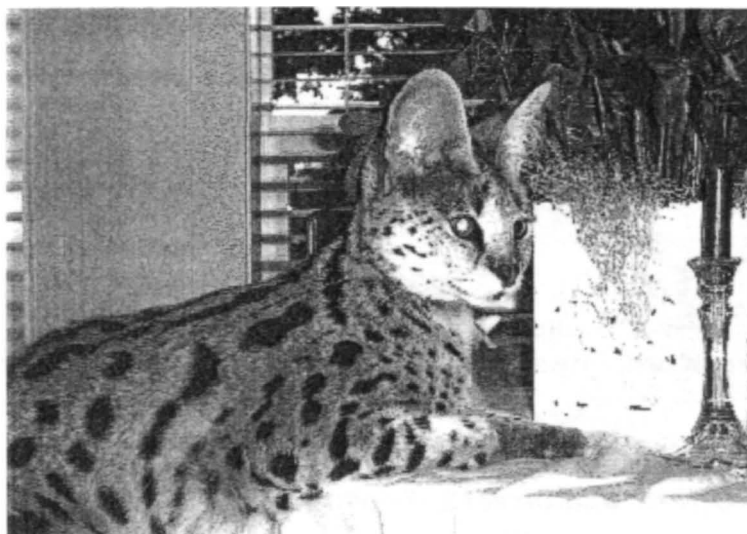
From the moment she came into our lives feeding time became "bonding time". We give her a raw chicken leg and hearts every night (with added vitamins) both as a treat and for her STRONG chewing need. She is fed a variety of canned food for all other meals and of course steals from the domestic cat's bowls. We are always petting and touching her while she eats and she even allows us to hold the chicken leg in order for her to get a better bite. Eating, bonding and love are all a part of "feeding time". Without the "plastic wiffle ball" we are not sure what other items would be destroyed since this item seems to help keep her from chewing (as much) on the arm of every chair in the house.

As the years have gone by (just over 5 as this is written) it has turned out that E'Leisha is more bonded to Terrie than to John. This is not surprising considering Terrie works out of our home office and usually DOES drop everything to be at the "beck and call" of E'Leisha the Princess. John is the one who is called on to do any medicating! <grin>

Also as this is written, E'Leisha and K.C. have moved outside, to live in the enclosed deck. At about 4 years old, E'Leisha began to mark territory in the new house. She not only decided furniture was fair game but spraying down the heater vents was also fun.

When family and friends came in, letting us know they could smell urine, it was time to re-think her living situation. We hoped that would stop once she felt comfortable in the new house, but not only did she not stop, K.C. decided that if "big sister" was going to leave her mark, he would too – and since he was half her size, that of course meant he had to mark twice as many places! No matter that there is 1800 sq. ft. of tile they always find the spots to pee on that are the hardest to clean up. Try cleaning grout soaked with urine, try cleaning or saving the beautiful baseboards which are made of MDF board and now swollen and need replacing. Oh well, what's more important....

A large Bissell upright carpet cleaner, and a small Bissell spot cleaner were not enough to keep up, so they now are allowed inside only for supervised visits. Even then, E'Leisha will sometimes make a dash for her favorite spot and "refresh" her ownership. You just can't take the



wild out of a Serval.

We still look at E'Leisha and can't believe she allows us to share our lives with her. I am often asked, "would you do this again". Sometimes it's hard to answer that question because of how drastically our lives have changed. Because we share our home with 38 koi, 5 cats and anything else which comes in need of food or a handout, our lives are certainly different, yes enriched but also not always our's to do with as we please.

Having a child is a commitment, one that lasts till they are grown and either off to college, or out on their own. Having an exotic animal is an even bigger decision which must be based on education, a financial source to take care of emergencies and the reality that the small animal will grow up to be larger than most domestics. It's a life-long commitment, one that also needs to be clarified in your will in order to insure your animal will always have care, protection, food, love and health services provided by whomever is trusted and has agreed to become a caretaker for your companion.

All in all, an AMAZING addition to our family!

John & Terrie, December 2002

People who wish to salute the free and independent side of their evolutionary character acquire cats. People who wish to pay homage to their servile and salivating roots own dogs. —Anna Quindlen

2002 CONVENTION ANNUAL FCF BOD MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2002 Airport Plaza Hotel, Wichita, Kansas

Attending: President, George Stowers, Vice President Bob Turner, Dir. of Advertising and Publicity Carol Siegley, Dir. of Conservation and Education Tracy Wilson, Dir. of Legal Affairs Lynn Culver, Life Directors J.B. Anderson, John Perry, Carin Sousa, Shirley Wagner. Absent - Sec./Treas. Tonya Jones, Dir. of Membership Services Leanne Montgomery

The following branch representatives and candidates in upcoming elections attended in an observatory capacity: Jeanne Hall, Alliance for the Conservation of Exotic Felines; Barbara Wilton, Exotic Feline Educational Society; Harold Epperson, Midwest Exotic Feline Educational Society and candidate, Bobby Bean, candidate, Kevin Chambers, candidate.

8:09 Greeting and call to order - George Stowers

Officer and Director Reports

Treasurer Jones report. Anderson moved to table. Wagner seconded. Passed

Dir. of Advertising and Publicity Siegley-Bohning reported on additions to the web site and continuing advertisements.

Dir. of Education and Conservation Wilson reported her inquiries into group insurance for our members have been unsuccessful, so far. Husbandry Course at Isis Oasis was very successful. Hosts are being sought for future courses. Brochures are ready to print. Conservation trips being organized. Husbandry Manual is still in the works.

Dir. Of Legal Affairs Culver reported on Web site updates and focus on keeping up with the ongoing changes in State regulations. Future projects and proposed projects presented. New Federal bill introduced bears watching. Discussed personnel changes in USDA and plans for Exotic Cat Symposium in San Antonio. (note: - this event was cancelled)

Dir. of Member Services, Leann Montgomery now in attendance.

Life Director Anderson reported on direction by Board to be a polling judge for voting on amendments. A ballot went into Newsletter to be mailed to Anderson's residence by July 16. On July 18, Anderson took ballots to an accountant with a list from Member's Services of qualified voters. Accountant opened and checked with Anderson that voter was qualified according to Director of Member Service's list. Accountant counted, as did accountant's assistant. Accountant mailed results to Director of Member Services who then reported to President Stowers. Accountant then destroyed ballots so it would be a "secret ballot". Results were 84 to 41 on Amendment 1 (name change) Amendment 2 failed 61 to 61.

Wagner asked why secrecy had become an issue, at this time. Anderson insisted secrecy was paramount in a democratic society. He denied any votes had been disallowed or that any that came in after July 16th had been opened. Stowers thanked Anderson for his efforts.

Perry and Sousa had nothing to report. Wagner reported hours of work on our financial situation and recommendations made that "came to naught". SPARKS sign up form has not been going out to new members hence the program has been stagnant. Issues the SPARKS committee investigated have not been addressed yet.

Vice President Turner reported MEFES is in compliance with the percentage of LIOC members required. Culver suggested phone calls to people who drop rather than a letter. Wagner suggested post cards.

Branch Reports

Jeanne Hall reported that ACEF continues to grow, had more field trips this past year and has more items for their Newsletter than they could print.

Harold Epperson reported on MEFES and their continued growth. They are preparing a handbook of members input, which will be available online.

Barbara Wilton representing EFES said their membership was down and "speak outs" were fewer. They now take pelts to illustrate their talks, as they do not have the cats they used to.

Perry moved to proceed to Executive Session. Wagner seconded, Passed. Guests excused. Guests return. George issued statement that in Executive Session, concerns regarding validity of voting results were raised and discussed and the

board determined the votes were valid.

Stowers called for consideration of new branch applications. None.

Report on Ken Hatfield memorial Scholarship Fund. Financial report showed a year's donations (\$400) had been awarded to Matt Fraker, D.M.V. to help with the cost of attending zoo medicine course at University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Complete financial history of the most recent bank statement submitted. Dr. Perry has the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws and Minutes of Action available for \$2.50 (duplication cost) donation to the fund.

Committee Reports

Convention Committee's recommendation of Buffalo/Niagara Falls, where cats will be welcome was accepted.

By-law review Committee (Bob Turner, John Perry, Lynn Culver, Harold Epperson, Kevin Chambers) report was referred back to committee, with appreciation.

Shirley moved to adjourn for the day. Done

ANNUAL FCF BOD MEEETING reconvened August 9, 2002 Wichita, KS

Stowers called to order, Tonya Jones, Absent

Membership Structure Review Committee (Chairman Tracy Wilson submitting) was discussed and referred back to committee to make changes based on discussions.

SPARKS Committee Report - Lynn Culver requested to table SPARKS report.

Minutes of past year's quarterly BOD meetings and special meeting called approved by BOD.

Treasurer Report. Anderson moved to acknowledge receipt of Treasurer's financial report and bank statements noting inconsistencies. Seconded, Passed.

Culver amplified Felid TAG report to announce Alan Shoemaker's retirement and both co-chairs stepping down. Bill Swanson, one of this year's speakers is now the chair of the Felid TAG. AZA is looking for sanctuaries to house geriatric and surplus cats. Stowers encouraged developing standards that people could adhere to, along with SES programs and formation of a committee to investigate these issues and report to board.

Adjourned until 4:00

ANNUAL FCF BOD MEETING. Reconvened August 9, 2002 Wichita KS

ISZ report submitted by Lynn Culver approved.

Name Change - Culver will handle most details i.e. paperwork, web site, IRS, etc. Montgomery will head committee on logo. Jones will handle bank. Perry stated he thought we couldn't change corporate papers until membership ratifies implementation at next general membership meeting. Anderson moved to file a DBA as Feline Conservation Federation to use in interim before next year's annual membership meeting. Seconded and passed.

Budget - Board approved this year's balanced budget. It will be revisited first part of next year. Sousa moved to accept. Seconded and passed.

Wagner moved to adjourn until tomorrow. Seconded and passed.

ANNUAL FCF BOD MEETING reconvened August 10, 2002 Wichita, KS

Tonya Jones absent. Guests Mindy Stinner, Harold Epperson, Kevin Chambers and Jeanne Hall in attendance

8:17 a.m. Call to order

Culver moved for election ballots to be sent to Anderson, counted by CPA, verified by Anderson and retained until after next convention. Seconded and passed.

Wagner moved that previous year's profit, after verification by BOD, could be allocated for ongoing and special projects. Seconded. Wagner amended her motion to read (previous year's profit) may be included as income in the following year's budget. Motion failed 5 to 4.

Anderson moved that \$3,000 from checking account should go into this year's budget. Motion seconded and passed.

Wilson moved to refer Web Site Revamp proposal back to committee. Motion seconded and passed.

Culver moved to remove by-law 1.2 and 1.3 and replace with: A person may hold only one office on the BOD. If an incumbent BOD member runs and is elected to a position in addition to the one currently held, he or she shall assume the newly elected position and his or her old position will be declared vacant. Motion seconded and passed.

Wagner moved that Member profile questionnaire be included with all new member applications. She further moved that the questionnaire be sent to all current members to ascertain membership feelings on issues. Motion seconded and passed.

Wilson moved to raise Husbandry Course fee to \$90, offering a \$25.00 discount for FCF members. Seconded and passed.

Wagner moved that information submitted to FCF must not be used for purposes others than the business of the organization, without BOD approval. Seconded and passed.

Bob Turner called away for presentation.

Wilson presented Host Contract for Husbandry Course. Anderson moved to accept with the additional of a "Hold harmless" clause and specification of venue for disposition of legal action. Seconded and passed.

Wagner moved to remove \$25.00 fee for new members. All members will pay \$30.00 Seconded and passed.

Anderson moved to adjourn 2002 Annual BOD Meeting of FCF. Seconded and passed.

Feline Conservation Federation BOD Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting of Board of Directors - December 04, 2002

On December 04, 2002, George Stowers opened a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors in executive session called for by Lynn Culver and Tracy Wilson to consider charges of FCF by-law violations raised by 5 FCF members as provided for in section 8.4 of the FCF by-laws. Lynn requested that the rules be suspended pertaining to the normal 2 week notification period and instead the period for debate and consideration be two days and then two days to cast a vote on whether or not the FCF BOD will proceed with the process outlined in By-law 8.4. Lynn noted that the three FCF officers had already received these charges by regular mail the week previous, and all board members received copies of these charges via e-mail four days previous.

Motion - Move that charges be considered to have merit, that were brought against Life Director's John Perry, Shirley Wagner, and Carin Sousa brought by 5 individual FCF members, all having been verified as members in good standing by our Director, Membership Services Leann Montgomery.

Yea - R. Turner, T. Jones, C. Bohning, T. Wilson, L. Culver, L. Montgomery, JB Anderson

Nay - J. Perry, C. Sousa, S. Wagner

Abstain - G. Stowers

7 Yeas, 3 Nays, 1 Abstain Motion Passed

Submitted By: Tonya Jones Secretary/Treasurer



John Thomas Smith's E'Leisha Serval lives happily with her pet cat

**Dogs have Owners,
Cats have Staff.**



Lena by Susan Watts



Zaynah Fishing

Photo by Gina Tkach

Join us online!
www.felineconservation.org

Special Meeting of Board of Directors - December 16, 2002

On December 16, 2002, George Stowers opened a Special Meeting of the Board Of Directors that was called for by Lynn Culver and Tonya Jones. The following motions were made. They were voted on December 31, 2002.

Motion #1- Move that John Perry, president/treasurer of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund, be removed as trustee of the Ken Hatfield Memorial Scholarship Fund due to dereliction of duty, breach of fiduciary duty, and violations of the terms of the trust and that Harold Epperson be appointed as the replacement.

L. Culver - Yea, T. Wilson - Yea, R. Turner - Yea, T. Jones - Yea, C. Bohning - Yea, L. Montgomery - Yea,
J.B. Anderson - Abstain, G. Stowers - Abstain **6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Abstain Motion Passed**

Motion #2- Move that Bob Turner be appointed Trustee of the KHMSF to replace Shirley Wagner, who resigned that position.

L. Culver - Yea, T. Wilson - Yea, R. Turner - Yea, T. Jones - Yea, C. Bohning - Yea, L. Montgomery - Yea,
J.B. Anderson - Yea, G Stowers - Abstain **7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain Motion Passed**

Motion #3- Move that \$1,500 be approved from the general fund to retain the Wolf- McClain Law Offices to counsel, file a cease and desist order, and to intercede and appeal the trademark application by a Washington based corporation calling themselves the Long Island Ocelot Club, its officers, and principals.

L. Culver - Yea, T. Wilson - Yea, R. Turner - Yea, T. Jones - Yea, C. Bohning - Yea, L. Montgomery - Yea,
J.B. Anderson - Yea, G. Stowers - Abstain **7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain Motion Passed**

Motion #4- Move that Mindy Stinner be appointed the Newsletter Editor due to the resignation from that position by Shirley Wagner.

L. Culver - Yea, T. Wilson - Yea, R. Turner - Yea, T. Jones - Yea, C. Bohning - Yea, L. Montgomery - Yea,
J.B. Anderson - Yea, G Stowers - Abstain **7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain Motion Passed**

Motion #5- Move that the position of Registrar of the FCF SPARKS Registry Service and Studbook be assumed by the Director of Conservation and Education, Tracy Wilson, until a suitable and willing replacement can be found.

L. Culver - Yea, T. Wilson - Yea, R. Turner - Yea, T. Jones - Yea, C. Bohning - Yea, L. Montgomery - Yea,
J.B. Anderson - Yea, G Stowers - Abstain **7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain Motion Passed**

Motion #6- Move that J.B. Anderson assume the duties as the person in charge of receiving nominations and votes for the Lotty award.

L. Culver - Yea, T. Wilson - Yea, R. Turner - Yea, T. Jones - Yea, C. Bohning - Yea, L. Montgomery - Yea,
J.B. Anderson - Abstain, G. Stowers - Abstain **6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Abstain Motion Passed**

It should be noted that former life director Shirley Wagner was not eligible to vote having resigned from the BOD and that John Perry and Carin Sousa were not eligible to vote because they are under Disciplinary Suspension.

Submitted By: Tonya Jones Secretary/Treasurer



**Lena
Serval at
CCI**

**for more
about
Lena,
see story
page 16**





MEFES Minutes for October 19, 2002 Meeting

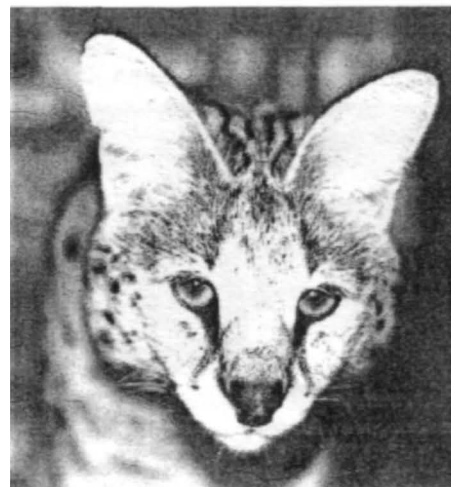
- Meeting held at Bill and Diana Johnson's in Zionsville, Indiana
- President Harold Epperson started the meeting by thanking Bill and Diana for hosting the meeting, their second one in a row. He also thanked Robert Miller for doing some of the cooking. Twenty-four members attended.
- It was suggested at the start of the meeting that we should wear nametags at each meeting to help new members get to know everyone.
- Everyone introduced themselves and some mentioned what cats they have.
- J.B. and Reva Anderson, members from Missouri attended the meeting. J.B. urged everyone to join our national FCF organization if they aren't members already, and to please vote when they get the ballot. He also urged people to plan ahead and select people to take care of your cats if you are unable or pass on.
- Harold mentioned MEFES intentionally didn't get involved in the FCF controversy over the name change. We are trying to remain with our goal of saving the cats.
- Peggy Epperson read the July meeting minutes and treasury report. The Treasurer's Report of 10-19-02 – Our present balance is \$1,322.15. Our balance on July 20th was \$1,307.92. We received \$430.00 from dues and paid \$415.77 for printing and mailing the newsletter and we purchased envelopes and labels for future mailings.
- Peggy stated we have three new members; they are Doug Kildsig, Cary Nodley and Robert Miller who rejoined.
- Bob Turner motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Monte Frances 2nd it.
- Harold said that no one ran for office this time, therefore the same officers are in for another year.
- Bob Turner spoke on incorporation for MEFES to protect from lawsuits. He and Cheri Fecker will file next week. He also spoke about viruses affecting the cats and to be very careful when visiting other facilities or having cats and people visit yours.
- Bob mentioned that there is a company who will do the artwork for free on our logo, should have the logo ready quickly, probably before Christmas. Quantity discounts was unknown.
- Bob urged people to go to the next FCF convention next August. It is to be held at Niagara Falls. A charter bus is under consideration, but no details yet.
- Cheri Fecker had a sample of the 2003 cat calendars for everyone to look over.
- A web site for MEFES was discussed. It would cost about \$120.00 a year. Monte made a motion to allot funds to create a web site, Bill Johnson 2nd it. MEFES would pay about \$10.00 a month. Treasurer to write a check for it. Scott Granke to implement it. Emergency numbers could be on there. MEFES should have its own web site for total control. A committee with Carey Nodley, Scott Granke and Monte Frances were appointed. A motion was set new not to exceed \$120.00 a year and the motion passed. For our own web site, the committee to finalize it.
- Another husbandry course will probably be offered next spring. Cheri Fecker and Pam Hotle expressed interest in taking it. Harold said he felt like it really raised his confidence after passing it. Joe Taft of Brazil, Ind. is trying to arrange one in Terre Haute about March, and Tonya Jones of Kentucky is working on one for January. It was decided that we didn't need to have one in this area at this time.
- Marlene Granke mentioned that her vet would no longer treat her servals because they don't receive rabies shots.
- Bill and Diana Johnson awarded a prize to the person who came the longest distance to attend the meeting. Bob Stern of Northfield, Ohio was the winner of a little stuffed bobcat. Bob was holding new member Doug Kildsig's baby bobcat at the time, and for a moment it was questionable who was going to end up with the prize, Bob or baby bob.



Caraval--a serval/caracal hybrid

This year's "Hush Award" was presented to Bill and Diana Johnson by last year's winner, Cheri Fecker. Bob Turner said this was the 3rd year for the "Hush Award" and explained how it originated and that the previous winner presents it to the next year's winner.

A motion was made to adjourn. Submitted by Patty Turner



Neonate Felid Care-A Beginner's Overview

Submitted by Bobby Bean

Editor's note: This is the continuation of a series of articles created as a compilation from contributors at the EFBC-Feline Conservation Center in Rosamond, California, Hexagon Farm, Wild Feline Breeding Facility in San Juan Bautista, California Mountain View Breeding & Conservation Center in Langley B.C., Canada, and Robert Bean of the International Zoological Research and Exchange in Knoxville, Tennessee, done for the AZA felid TAG. This is intended as an overview, not a detailed guide to hand rearing kittens. This group of authors advocates for allowing kittens to remain on the dam for rearing when possible.

Adding solids to an existing formula as a transition to solid foods:

There are a wide variety of foods that can be added gradually to the formula, including commercial feline preparations such as those made by Zupreem, Spectrum, and Nebraska, along with human baby foods such as Gerber and Beech-nut stage 1 strained chicken and turkey. The addition of commercial feline products requires using a blender, and sometimes straining. This insures a complete mixing of the formula to facilitate good flow through the nipple. The use of human baby foods lacks proper amounts of vitamins and calcium but supplementing them with Poly-Visol liquid vitamin, and Neo-Calglucon liquid calcium supplement can overcome this limitation. There had been some concern regarding the use of Gerber brands baby foods when the company reformulated its products and added onion powder to it. Onion powder is contraindicated in felines in large doses, but again, because of the short time that the kitten was exposed to this substance, it is believed by some veterinarians that it caused no harm. Gerber has changed the ingredients to its original formulation so any concerns are now unwarranted. No matter what formulas you use or which ingredients you add to supplement the formula, be consistent and keep detailed records. This way you always are able to go back and see what, if anything, might have caused a problem.

Also do not keep changing the ingredients of the formula. When supplementing any formula always add in small amounts. Each change in the formula, especially when the kitten is young, sometimes brings on a bout of diarrhea. At many U.S. facilities, we have found that the human baby foods are much easier to use because it has already been strained and mixes well with the formula without the use of a blender.

Last month's article in this newsletter contained information about problems attributed to butterfat in some formulas. Several readers asked questions about the source of information and the specifics leading to the determination that butterfat was a problematic ingredient. The following is Mr. Bean's response to those concerns.

The section about neonate deaths from KMR / Esbilac was put together by information and research gathered by Penny Andrews (Hexagon Farms) and Joe Maynard (EFBC-Feline Conservation Center). Ms. Andrews lost a Caracal. The necropsy showed that it died from a blockage of butterfat from the Esbilac. Ms. Andrews had been hearing of similar incidents around the country from rehabbers, zoos and other reproduction facilities. The common denominator was "wild animals." Caracal, Fox, Tigers, Squirrels, Wallabies, Servals and Leopards are a few of the animals lost to the Esbilac / KMR. Ms. Andrews contacted PetAg about this common thread. The Dr. at PetAg acknowledged that he was aware there were some isolated deaths with wild animals. It could be the way the wild animals metabolize the new KMR with the butter fat or a host of other possibilities. There was a paper published on the subject by someone from the San Francisco Zoo. Ms. Andrews and / or Mr. Maynard can give more details if needed.

PetAg explained to Ms. Andrews that KMR was reformulated for use in domestic cats and that the Milk Matrix was formulated specifically for wild neonates. The original KMR used soy and coconut oil for the fat. PetAg changed the KMR formula to butter fat and canola oil for the fat content. Ms. Andrews has bottle raised over 250 felid neonates and is well known and respected for her husbandry skills of nondomestic felids. The Feline Conservation Center is second only to Robert Baudy.

Our facility began using KMR and sometimes Esbilac as a milk replacer in 1986. Compared to the other facilities, we've only raised a little over 100 baby wild animals such as rabbits, civets, squirrels, but mostly felids. We never had a problem with KMR or Esbilac.

When we are entrusted to care for the lives of these babies, we take it VERY seriously. Every life is precious to us. Bottle raising neonates has many variables. Some variables we can control, some we cannot. If there is ANY question whatsoever, we do not gamble with the lives of these babies.

For example: If there is a ratio of 1 death in 1000 due to undigested butterfat, we try to find a milk substitute that has a 0 ratio of deaths due to undigested butterfat. We remove the variables that we do have control of. Ms. Andrews and those that have much experience bottle feeding neonate felids and the people that make all 3 products (PetAg), recommend using the Milk Matrix formula over the KMR for neonate felids while acknowledging some still prefer Esbilac or KMR.

The only fact that matters is that there were some deaths due to butter fat blockages and the company that makes all three recommends Milk Matrix for non-domestic Felids. There is no reason to gamble with the life of an innocent baby so we choose to err on the side of caution.



How times have Changed . . .

a blast from the past



At extreme left, Pat Shannon, with MAX on lead, watches Shaney Brooks consoling EVE. In foreground is NOAH leading Carole Westervelt out of the picture. Partially obscured behind them are Cherie Starr with QUITO and Jim McDonald with CALIGULA. At right is Ann Eichelman carrying BABY, and at extreme right is Dorothy Marchese coping with ZORCH whose favorite position is suspended and inverted. ZORCH may find it necessary to make herself conspicuous since she was the only margay present. --- Photo by John Hopkins, New York, N. Y.

November 1959, The Big Prowl at Amagansett

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Photo by John Hopkins, New York, N.Y.

September 1961. On our cover featured ocelot Billie with owner Olivia Shepard. Billie looks much like most other ocelots, except that there is so very much of him. Not yet fully grown, he was twenty-two months of age when the picture was taken. He weighed sixty-eight pounds! He was well known in Miami, FL having been on TV and in the newspapers many times. He is very good-natured, Olivia reflects. She is no stranger to animals, being a worker at the Humane Society of Greater Miami. She obtained Billie from a man who brought him from Columbia, S.A., but who thought Billie was too much cat for him to keep. Billie was six months old when Olivia bought him.



BILLIE (with Olivia Sheppard)

News From Around the Jungle

Reports this about Billie.

Ocelot Ruled "Customary Pet" in Miami

Olivia Sheppard phoned Headquarters on August 4th to report that her fight to keep her pet ocelot in Dade County had ended in victory. This victory may do much to establish a precedent useful in future actions not only in other parts of Florida, but in other parts of the country.

The action started on a complaint of a neighbor against Olivia's pets: foxes, Billie, her German Shepard and others. After two days in court, Metro Judge Frederick Barrad ruled that she could keep Billie and her dog. He ruled against the foxes and some others as "nuisances" in Olivia's populated neighborhood, and ruled for the ocelot and dog as "CUSTOMARY PETS". The Miami Herald and the Miami News carried stories on August 4th.